

FAIRY TAIL

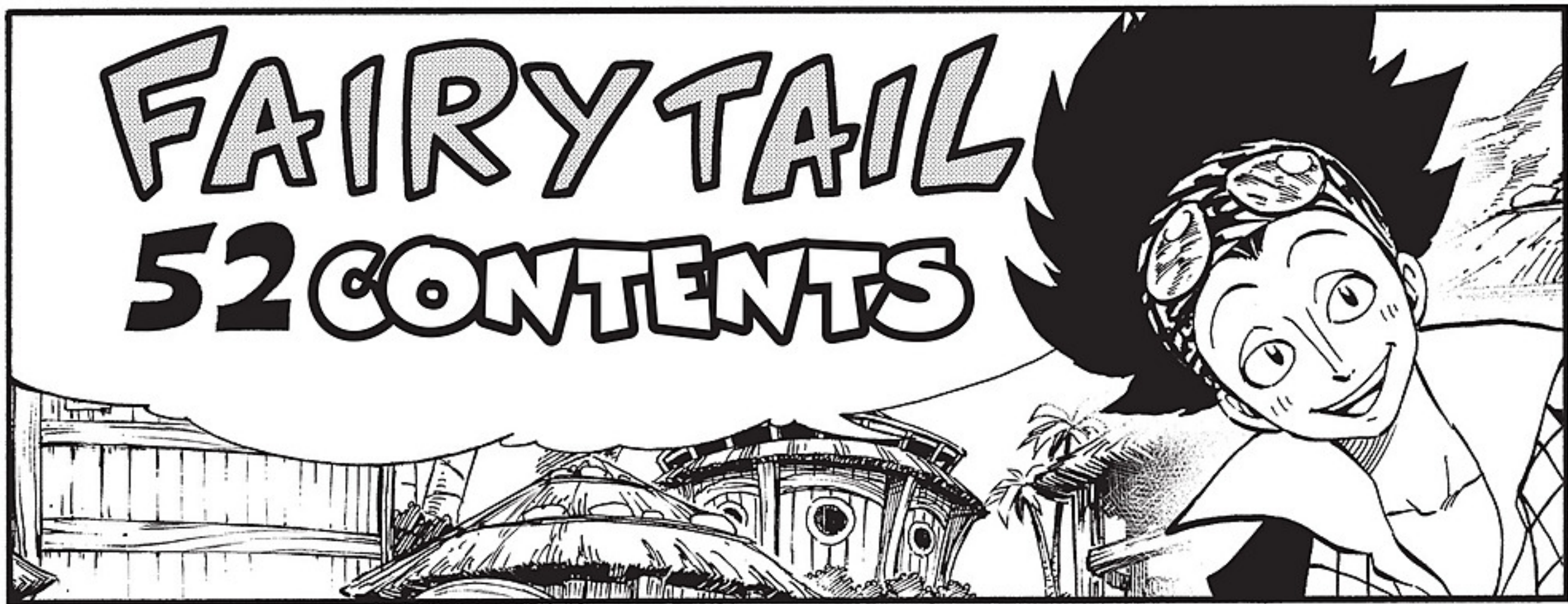
52



Hiro Mashima



HIRO MASHIMA

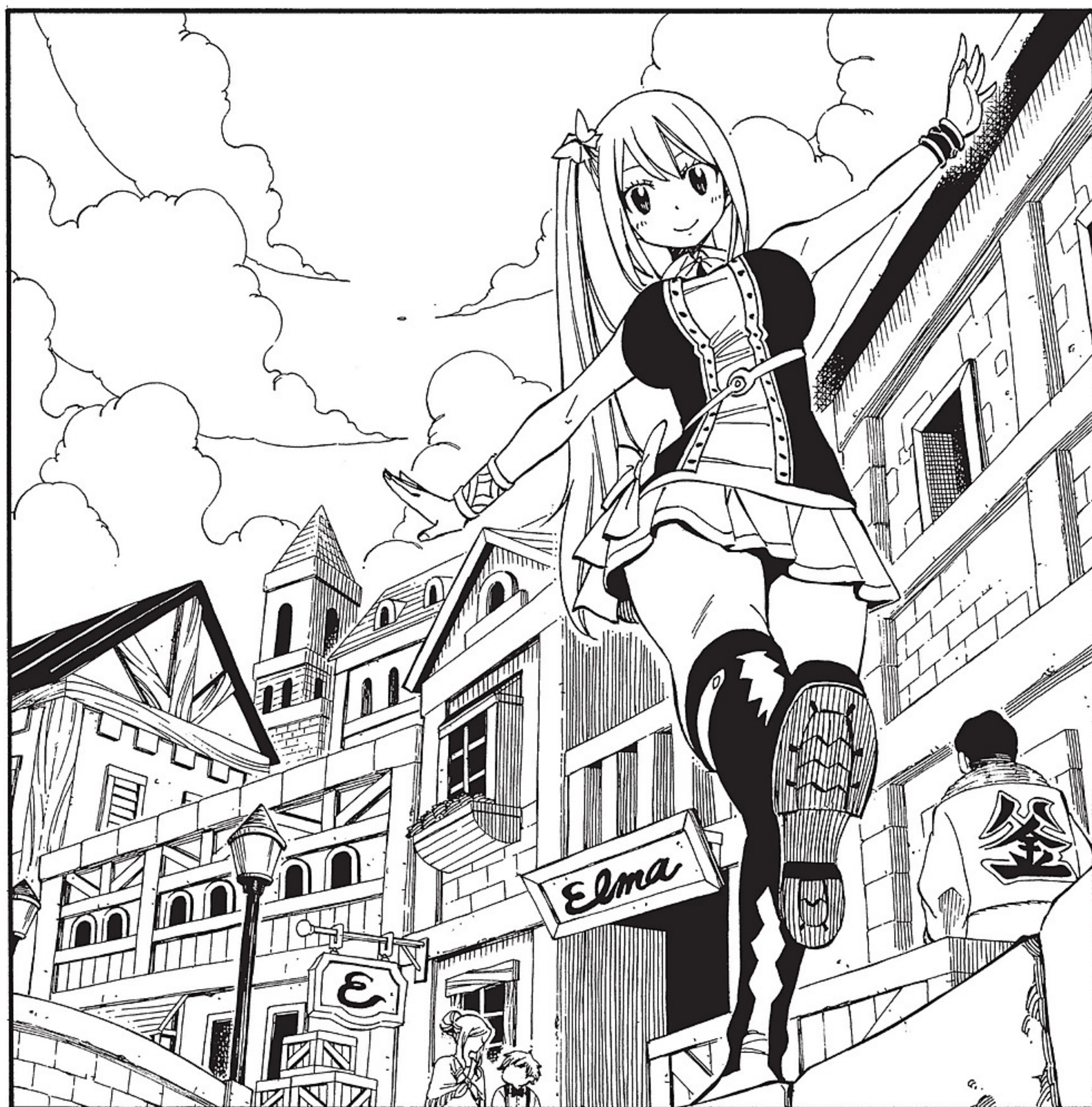


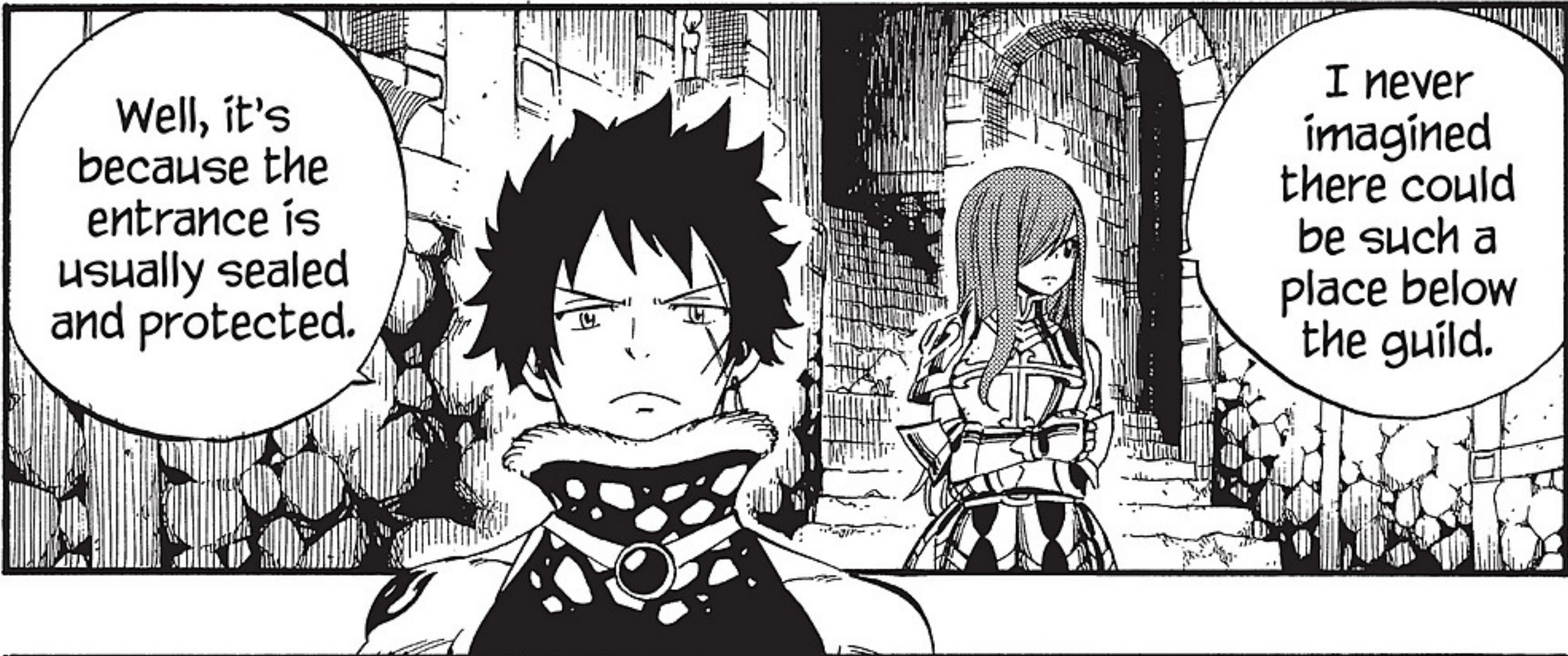
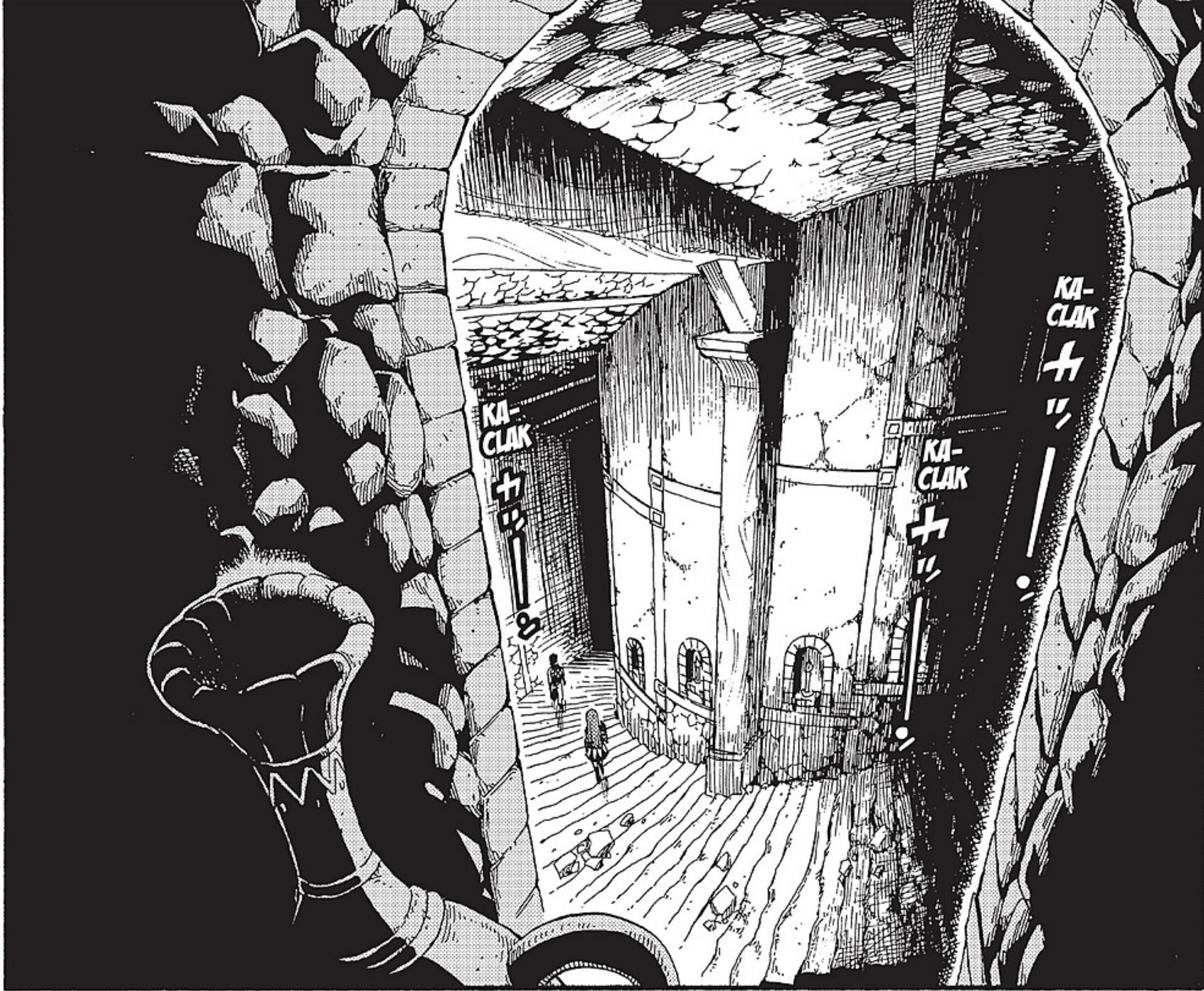
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FAIRY TAIL

フェアリーテイル

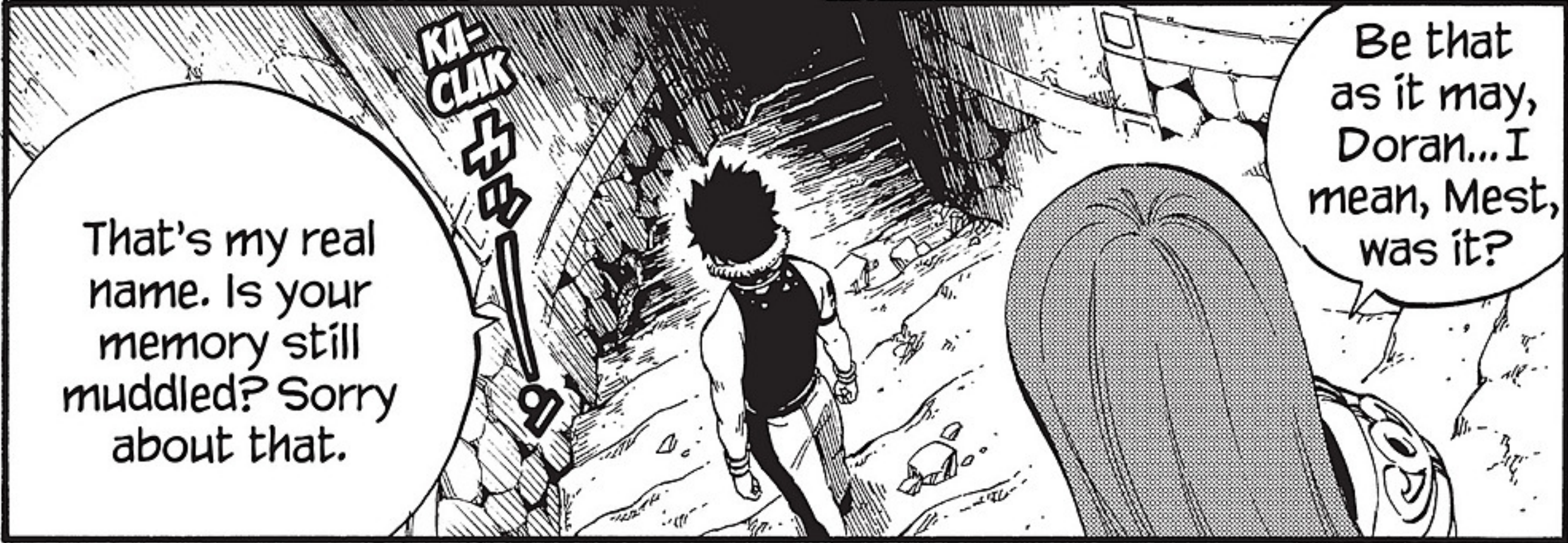
Chapter 439: The Albareth Empire





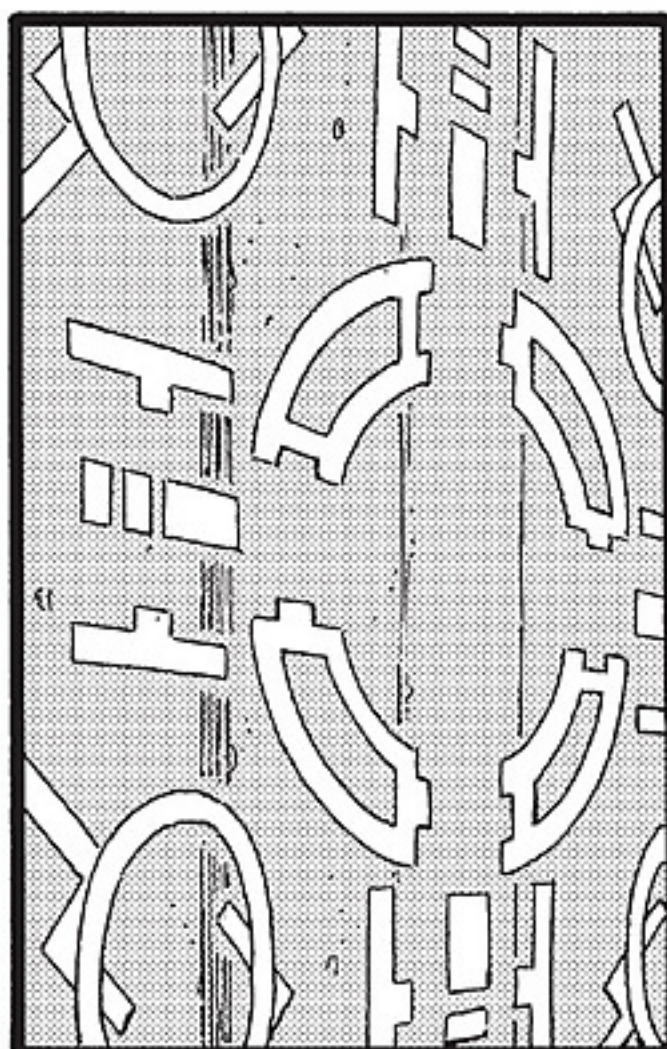
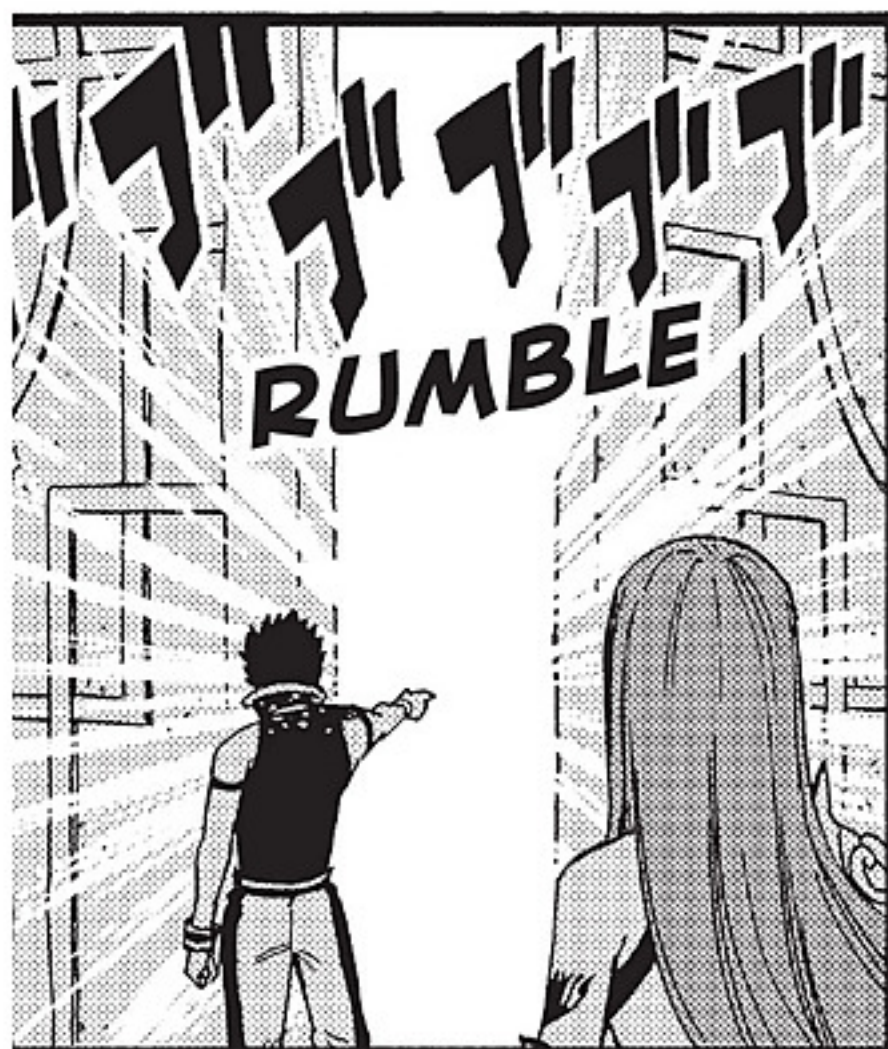
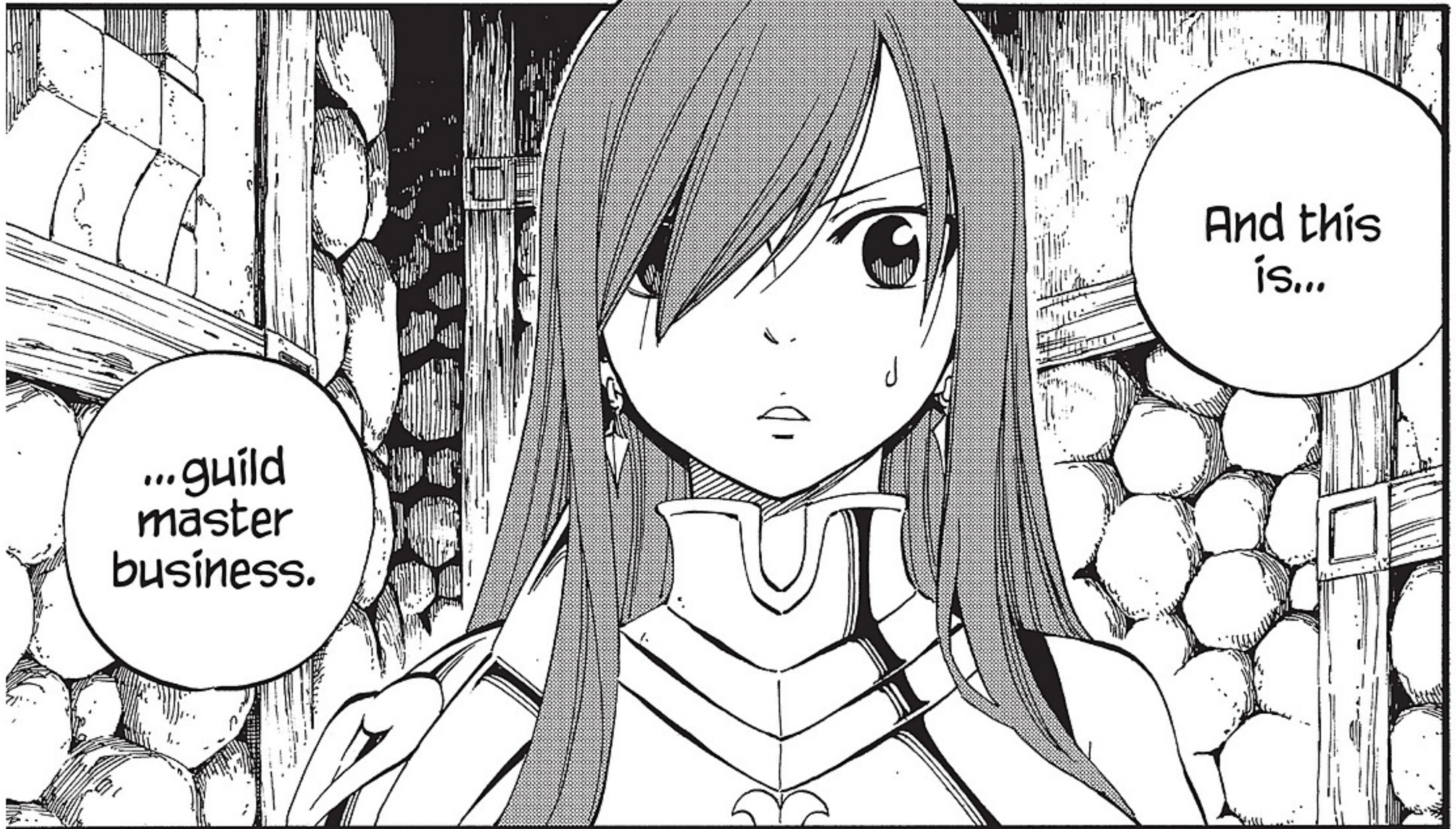
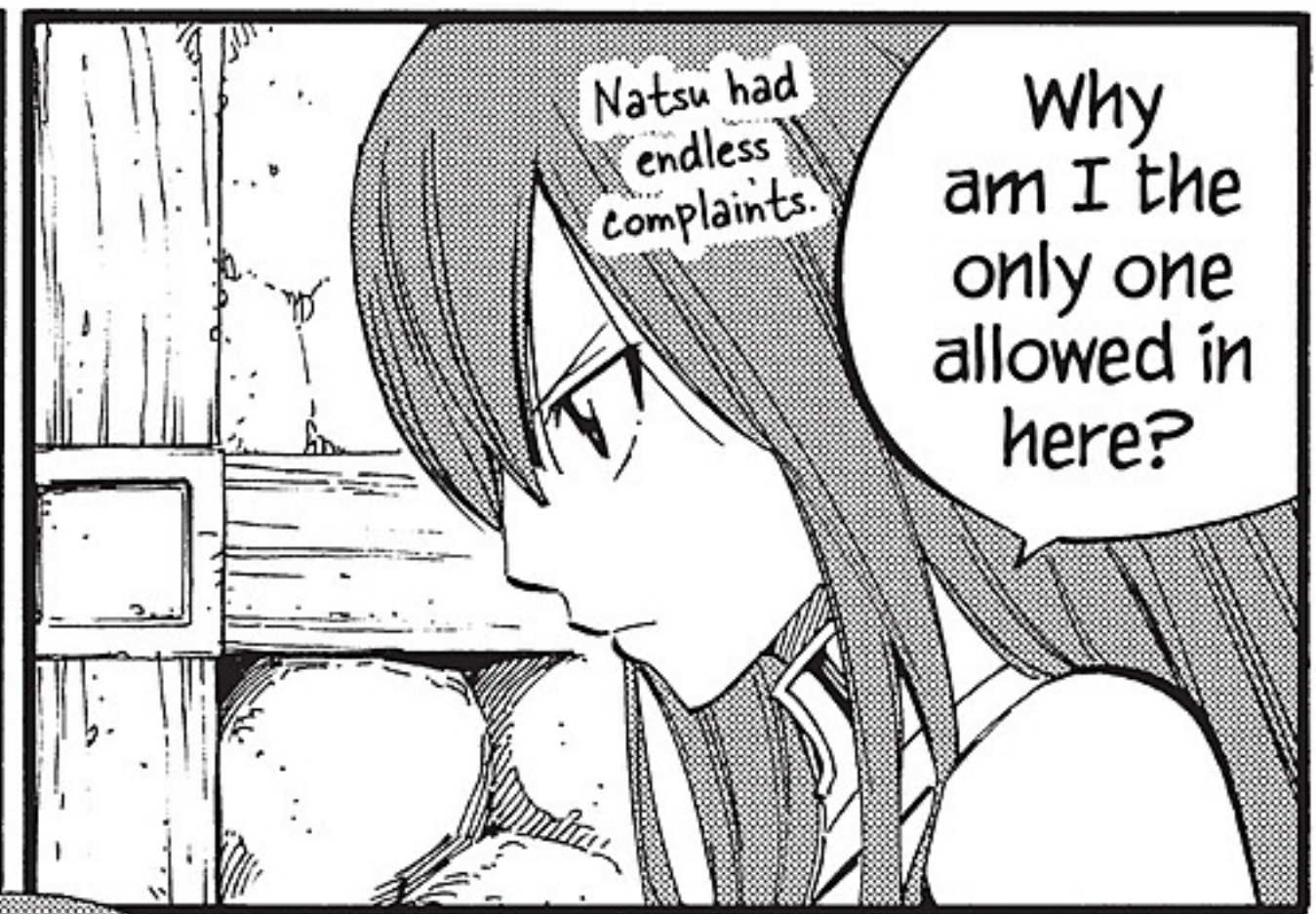
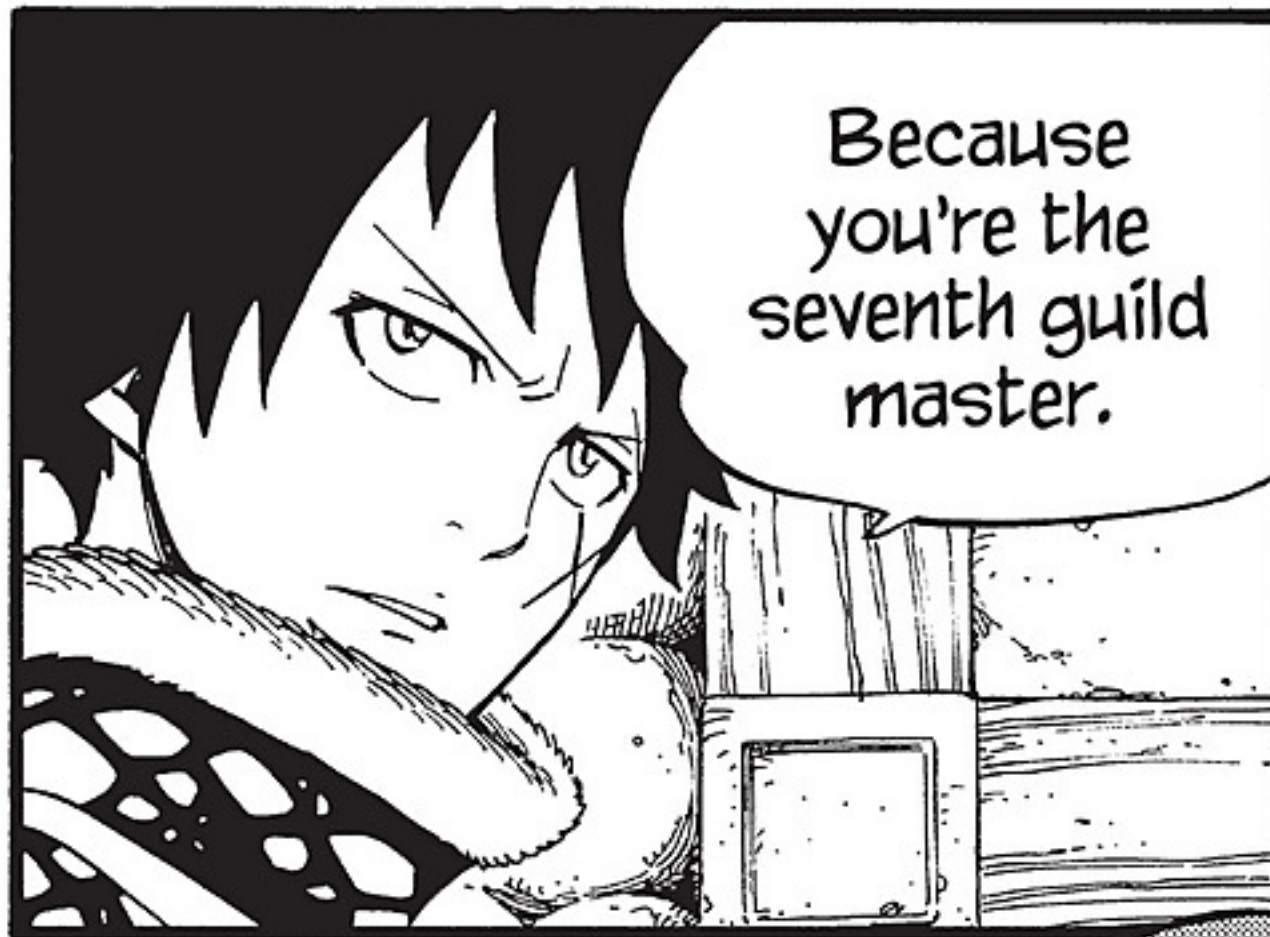
Well, it's because the entrance is usually sealed and protected.

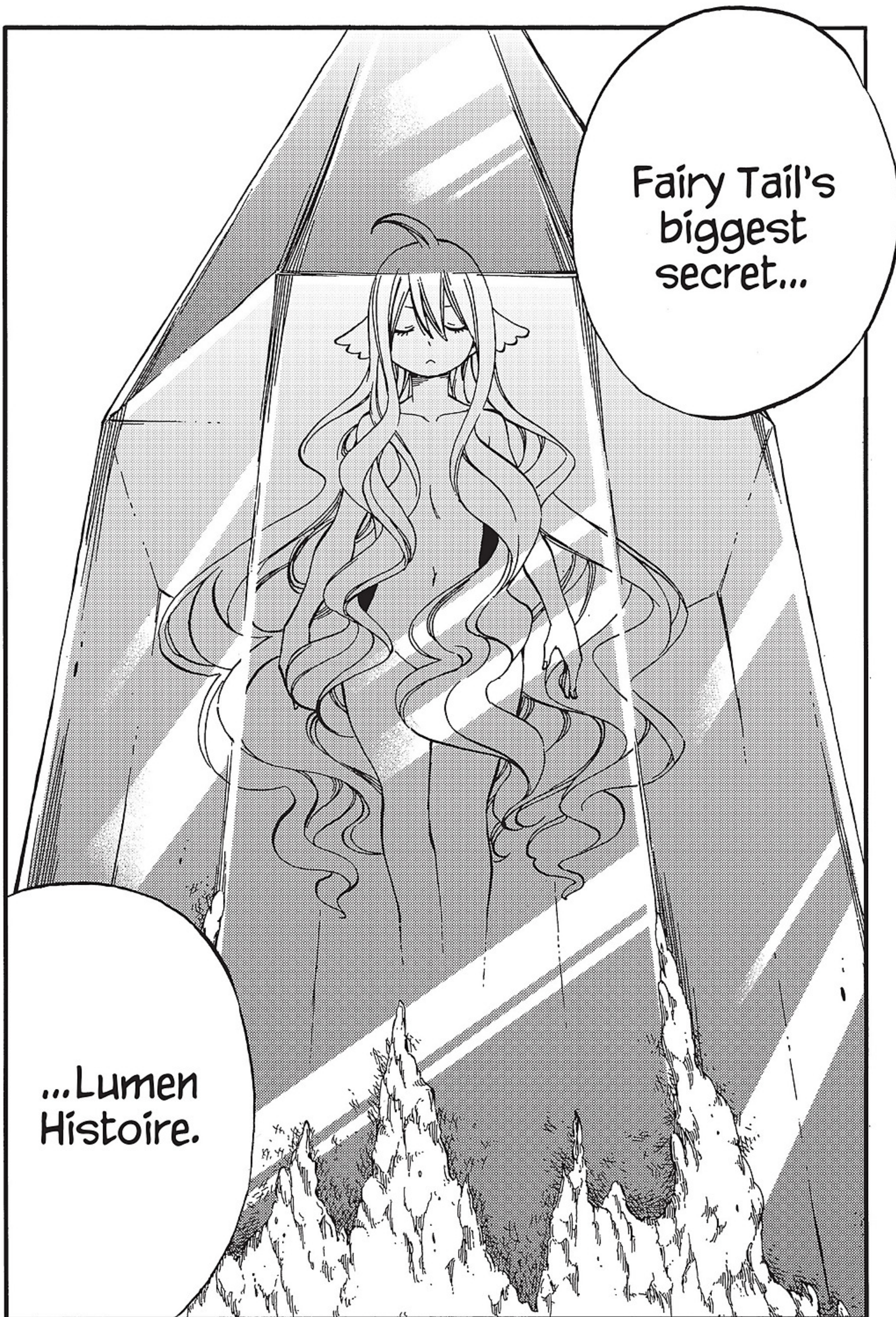
I never imagined there could be such a place below the guild.



That's my real name. Is your memory still muddled? Sorry about that.

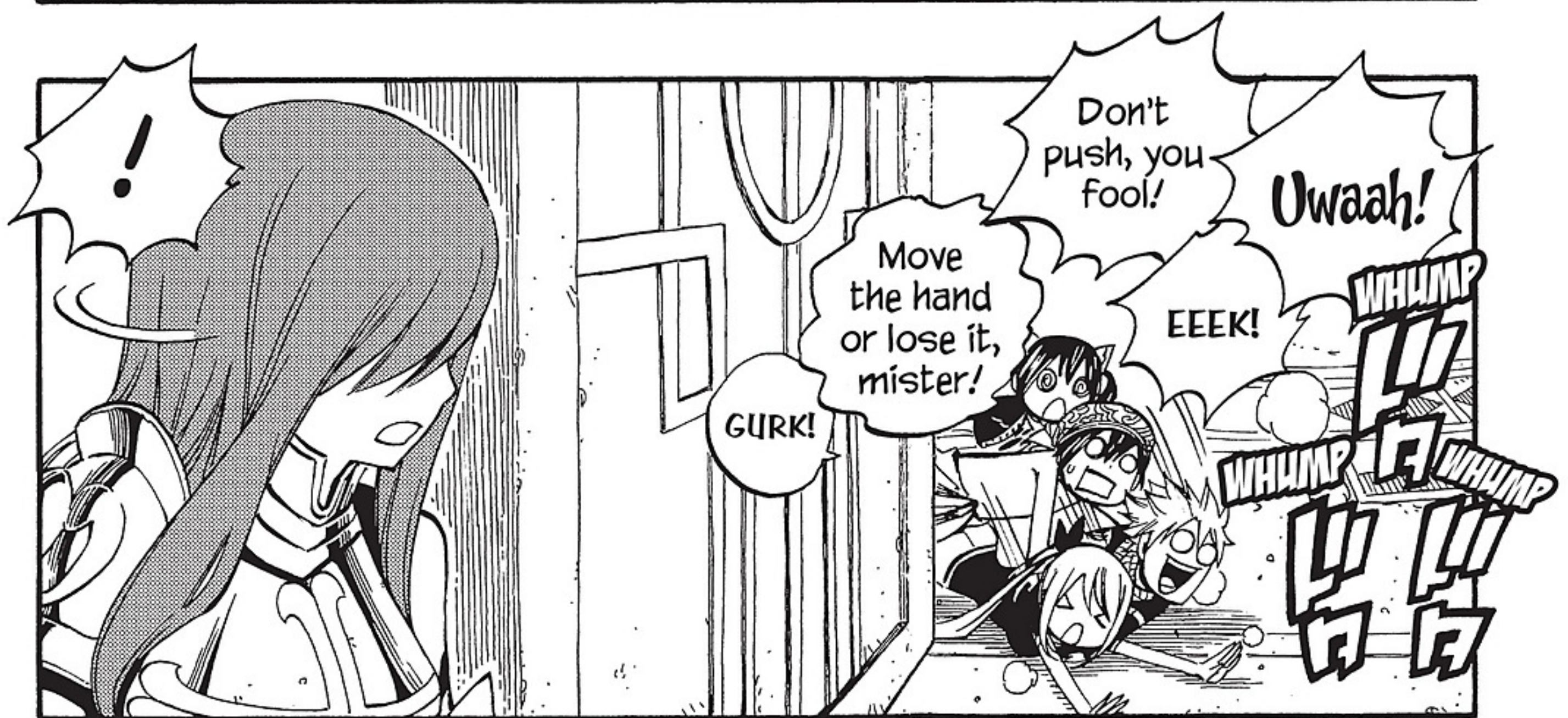
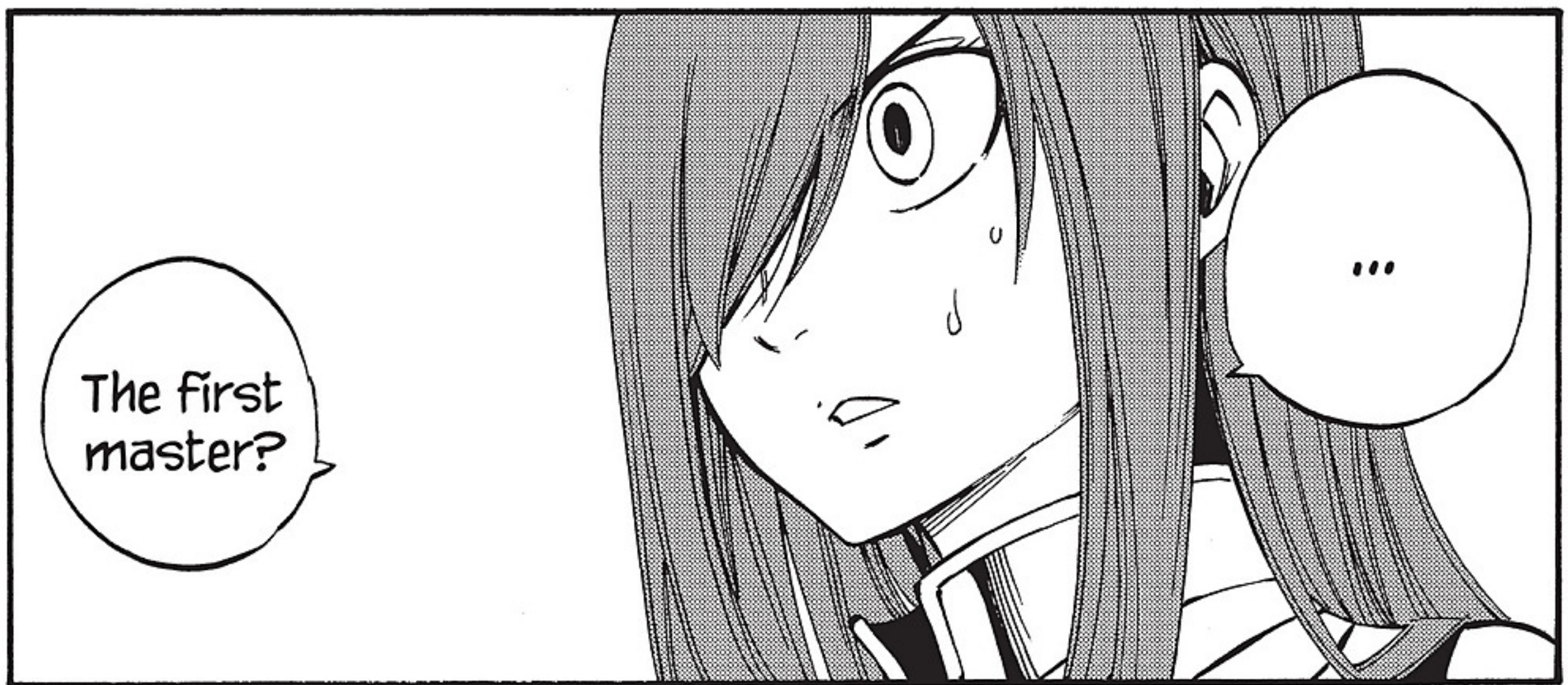
Be that as it may, Doran... I mean, Mest, was it?

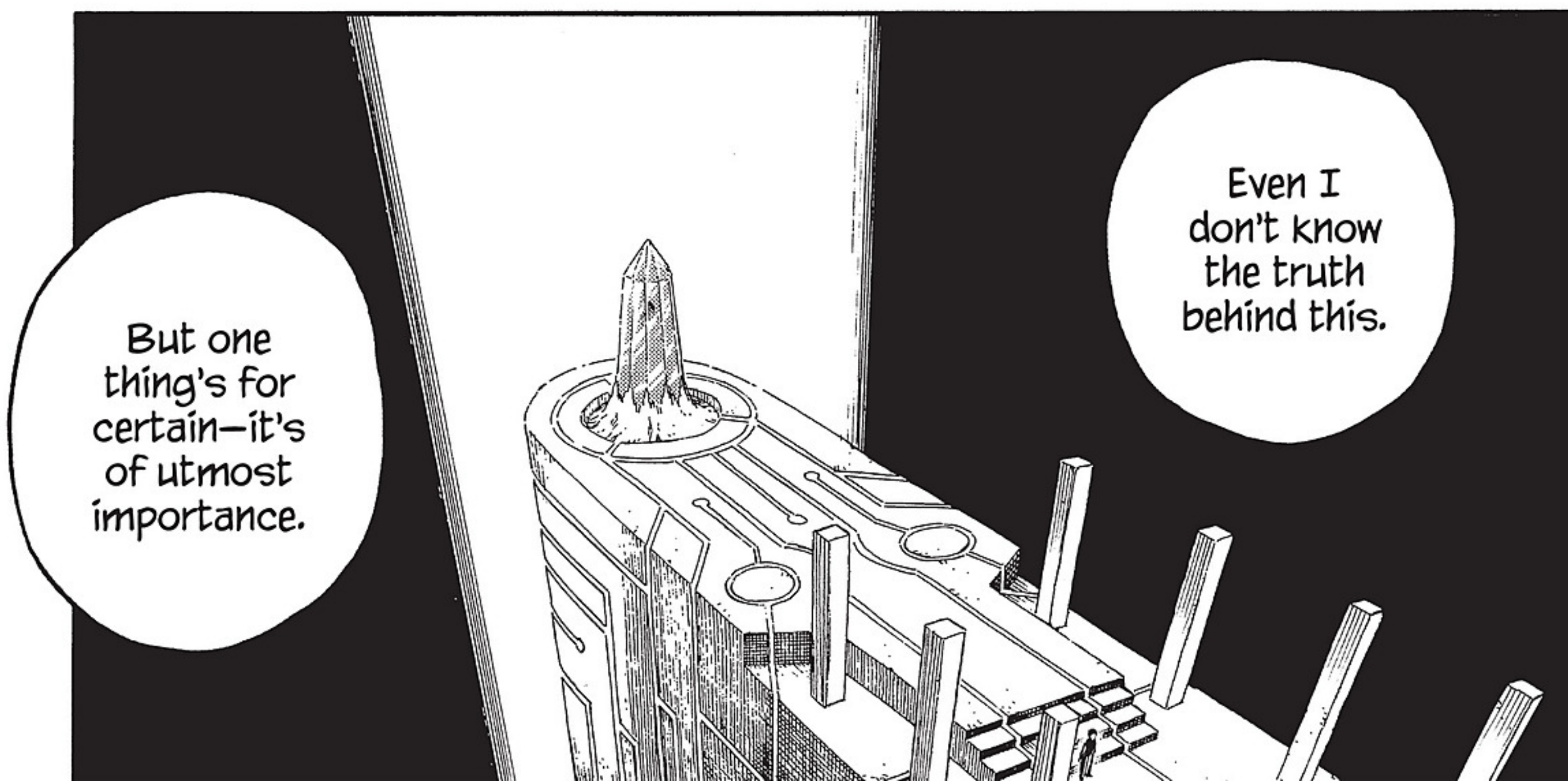
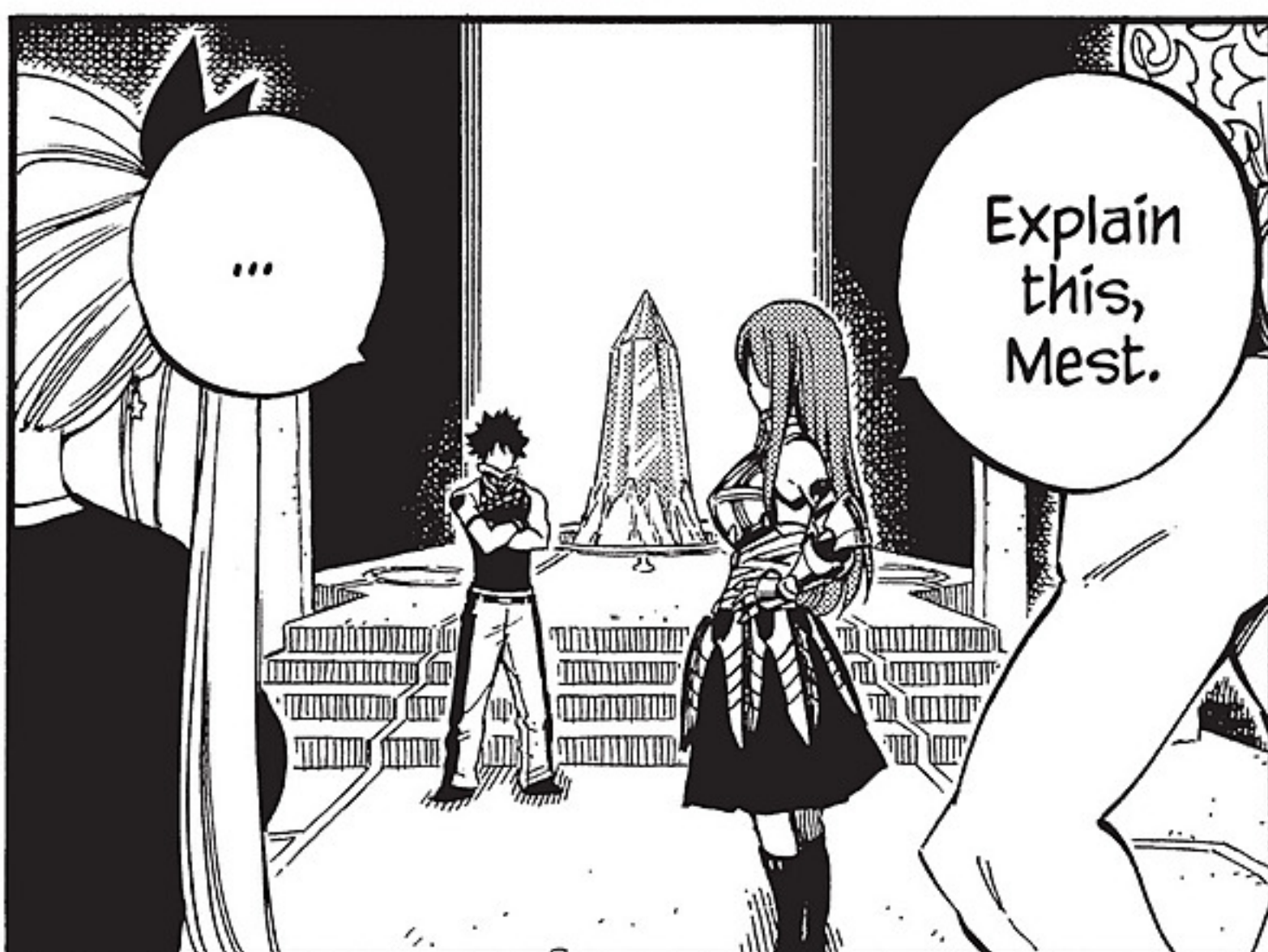


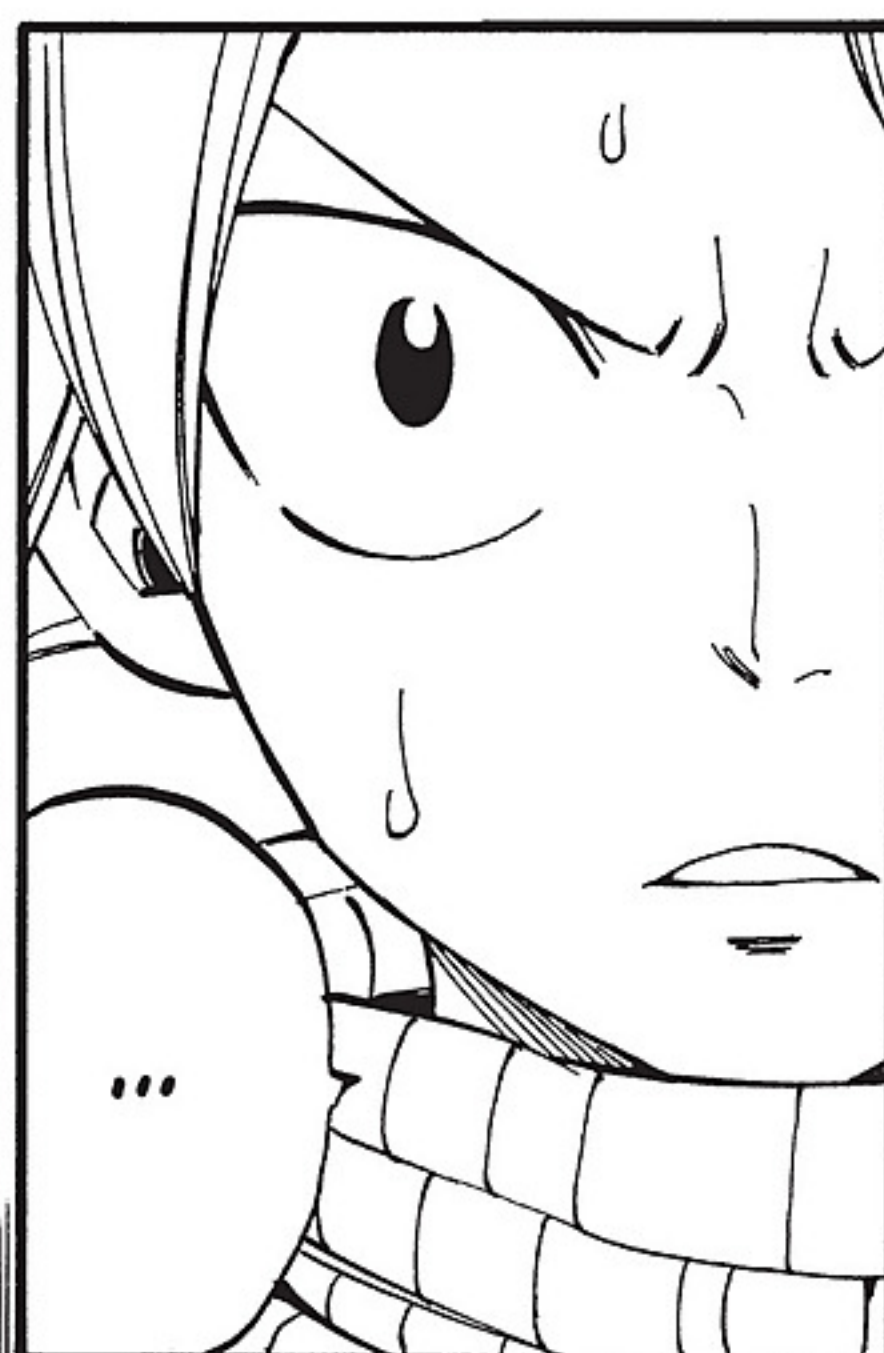
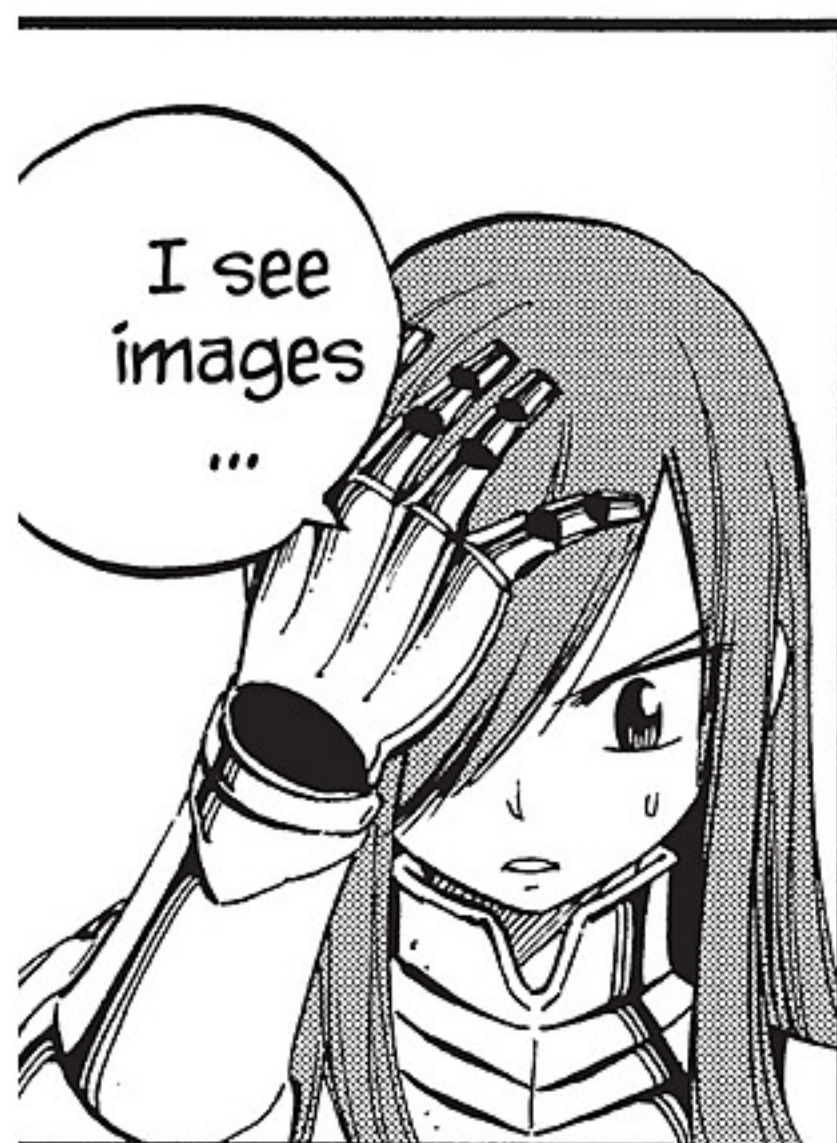


Fairy Tail's
biggest
secret...

...Lumen
Histoire.









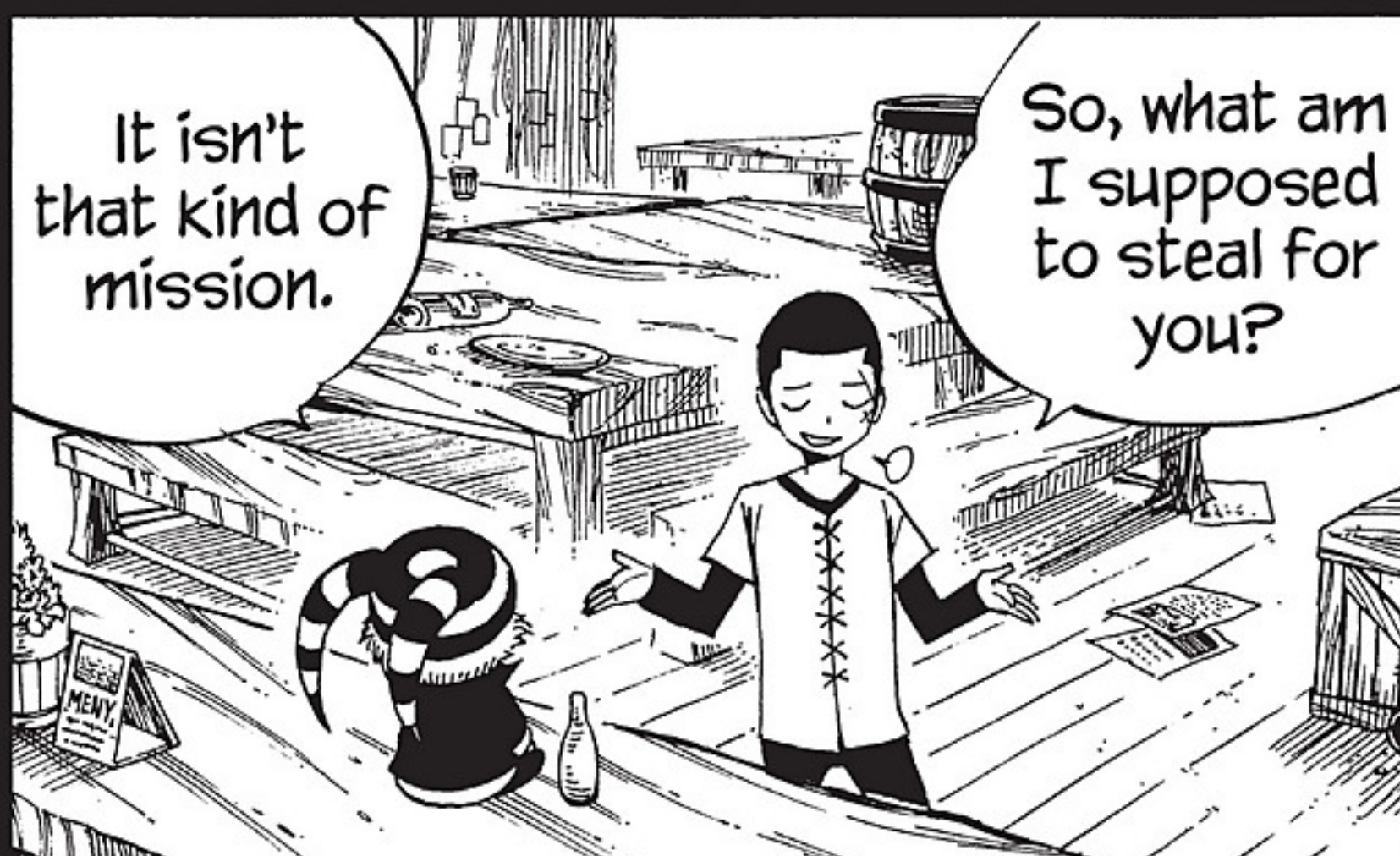
That's right.
You're the
only one who
can.



Infiltrate the
Council?



I need you
to feed me
any and all
information on
the Western
Continent.



It isn't
that kind of
mission.

So, what am
I supposed
to steal for
you?



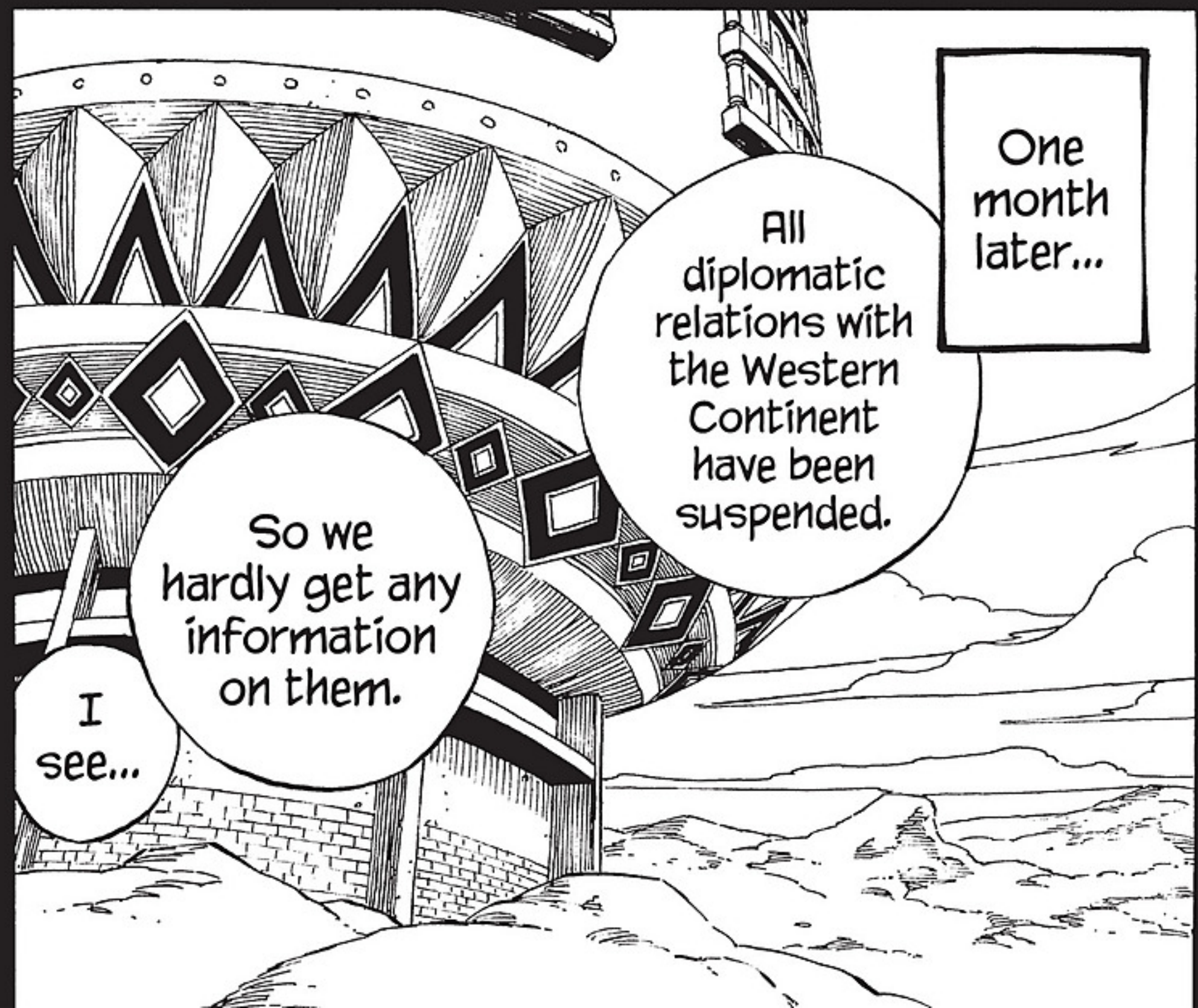
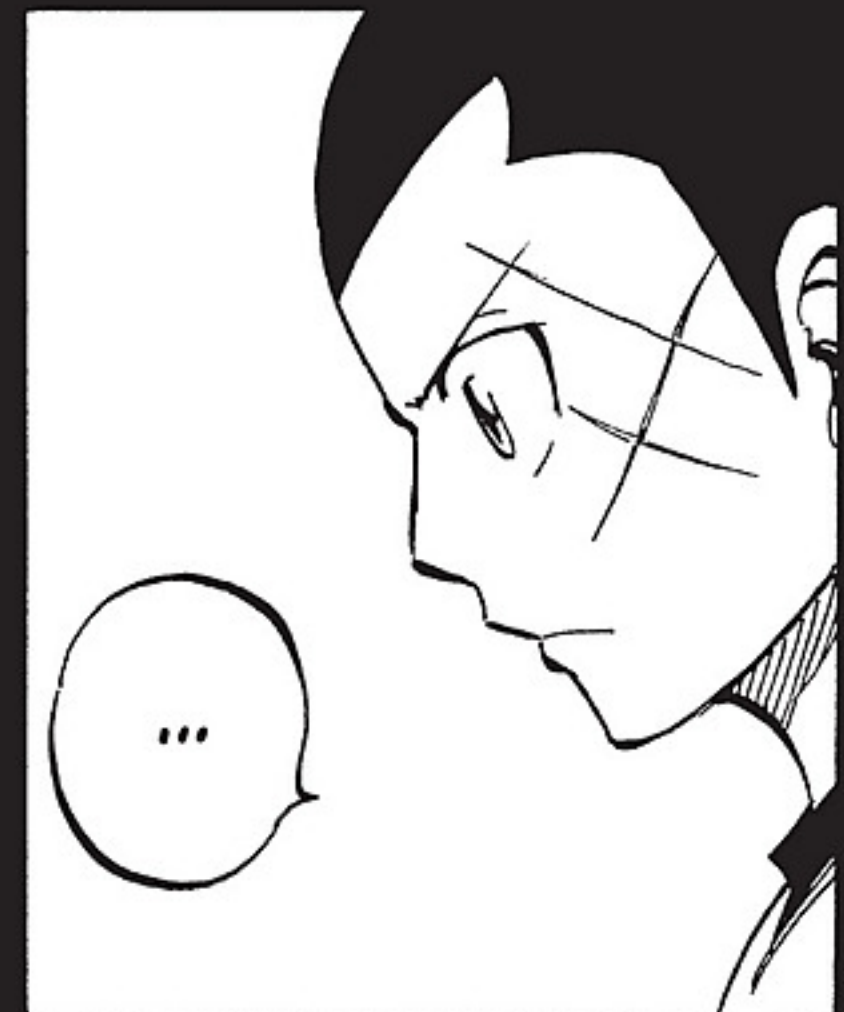
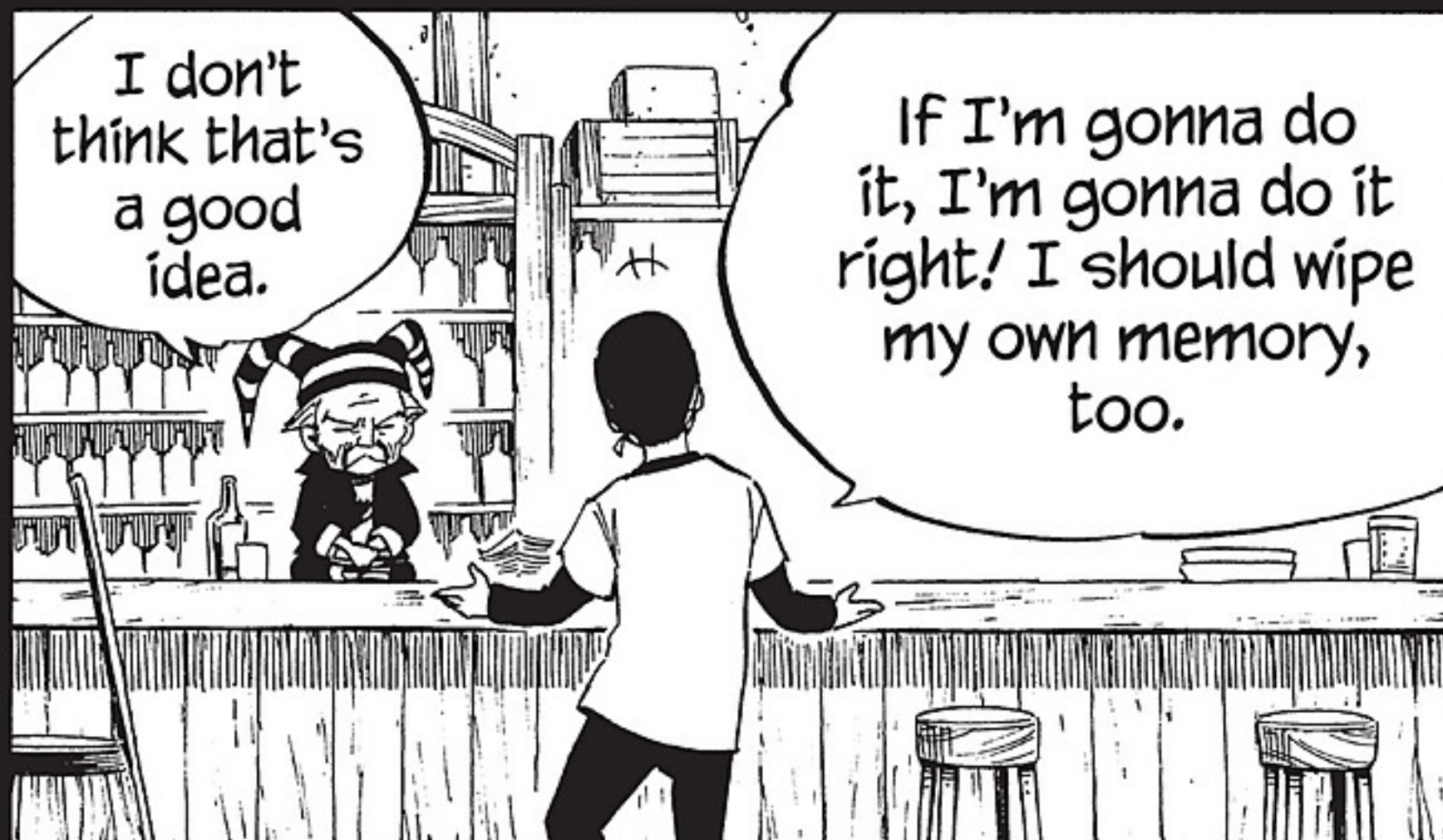
What
for?



I just want
you to tell me *all*
that is said and
done concerning
the Western
Continent.

I'm not asking
you to steal
documents or
erase the black
marks on the
guild brats'
records.

You want
me to steal
information?
Same
difference.





Hey! While I'm doing this, you have to call me Doranbolt.

You're very good at this, Mest.



It's all right... I've fashioned it so all my memories will come back when you remove the spell, Master.



I didn't think you'd actually go and erase your own memory...



Skipping ahead again...



Is it my imagination, or did you call me last month, too?

This is such a pain!



What business does the Fairy Tail master have with me?

And several months after that...



Ohh!

I bet I'll find a mountain of evidence to use against them!

That gives me an idea! Maybe I'll use my magic to infiltrate that guild of troublemakers!



Seems to happen a lot recently.



The Fairy Tail master wants to see *me*?



Yeah.
Sorry
about
that.

Hey!

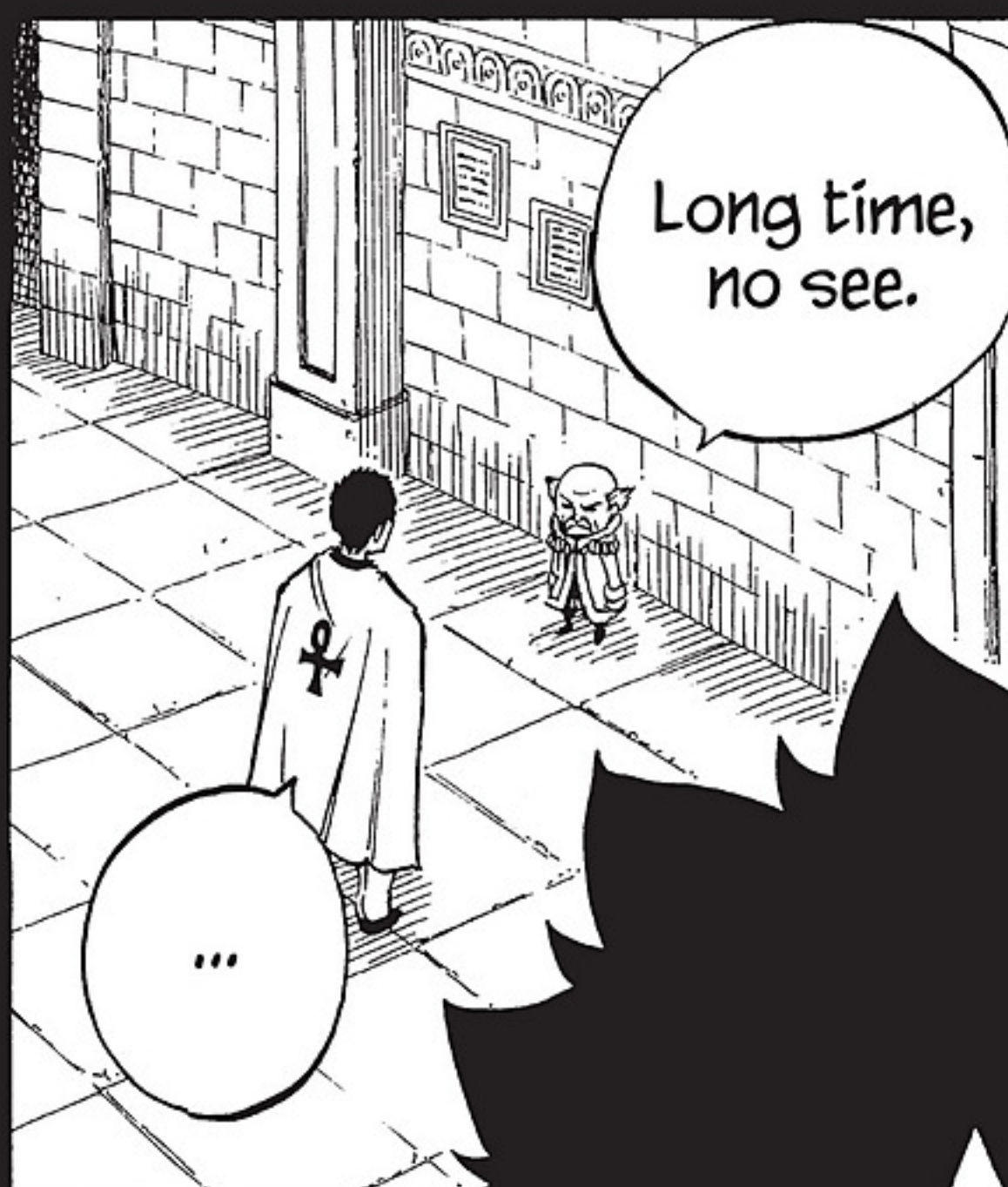
I want to
know all
their evil
plots and
schemes!

I can't
wait to
find out
what
they're
up to!

So I
joined
you on
Sirius
Island.



First, I'll
alter Makarov's
memories and
make him think I'm
a guild member!
I'll have them call
me "Mest!"



Long time,
no see.

...

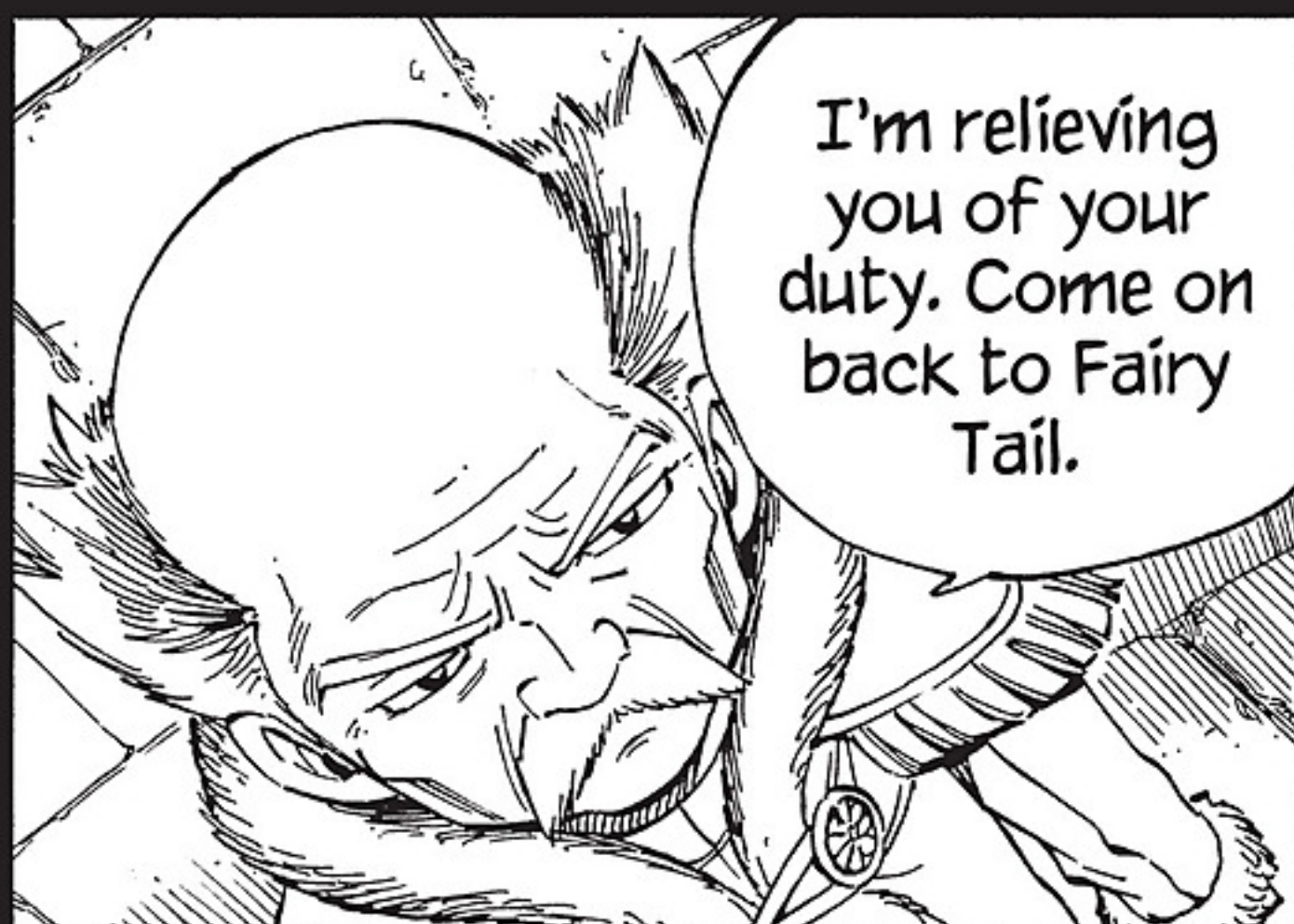


And
seven
years
later...

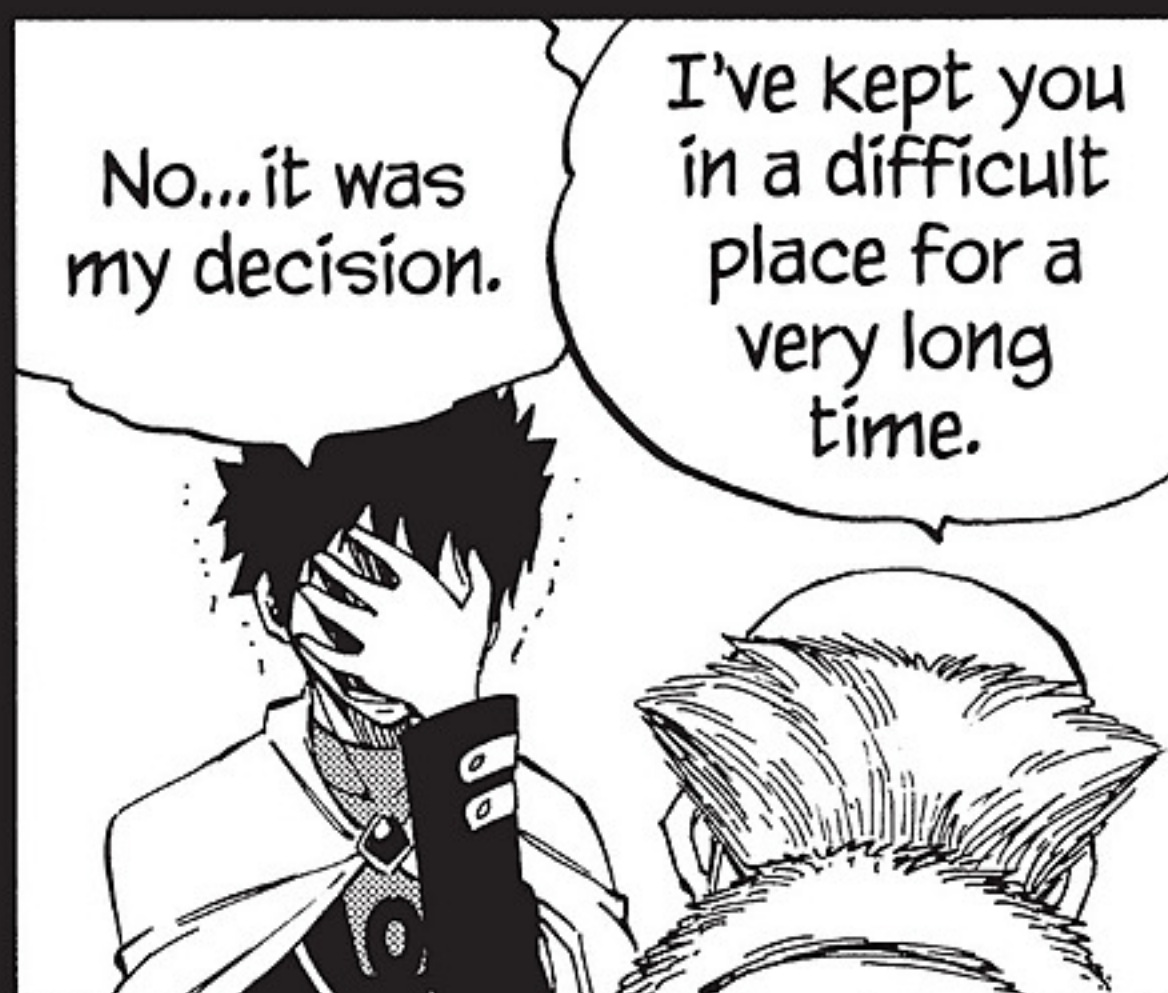


You and the
other guild
members...

I'm
so glad
you're
safe...



I'm relieving
you of your
duty. Come on
back to Fairy
Tail.



No...it was
my decision.

I've kept you
in a difficult
place for a
very long
time.



...some
of the
information
you wanted.

No... I'm
so close to
getting...



Fairy Tail
will be
disbanded.

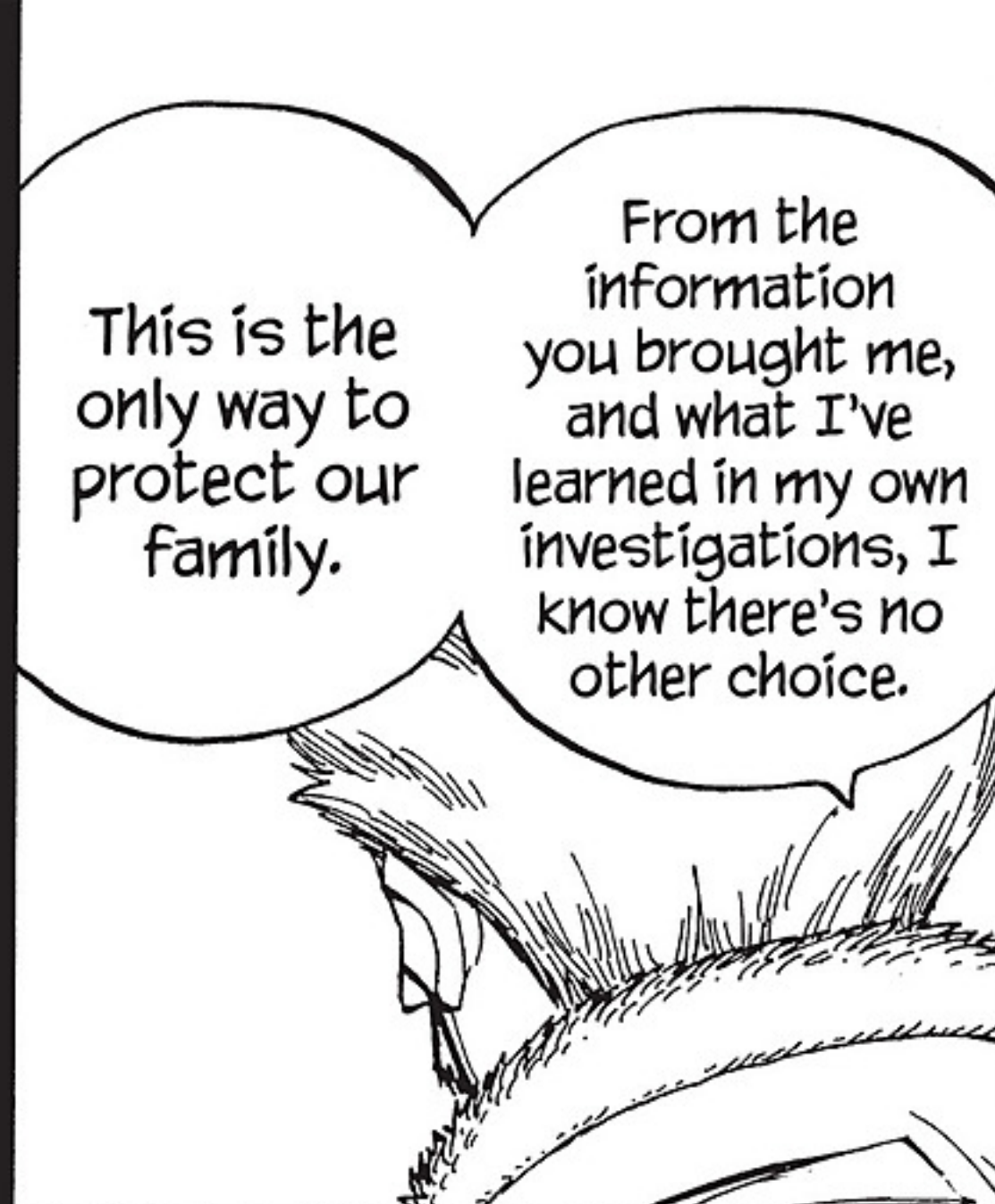
Then,
one year
ago, right
after the
battle with
Tartaros...





You decided to disband the guild because of an investigation into the Western Continent? I don't get it!

You don't need to.



This is the only way to protect our family.

From the information you brought me, and what I've learned in my own investigations, I know there's no other choice.



Huh?



It's because of the Albareth Empire on the Western Continent...

That country is just too dangerous!

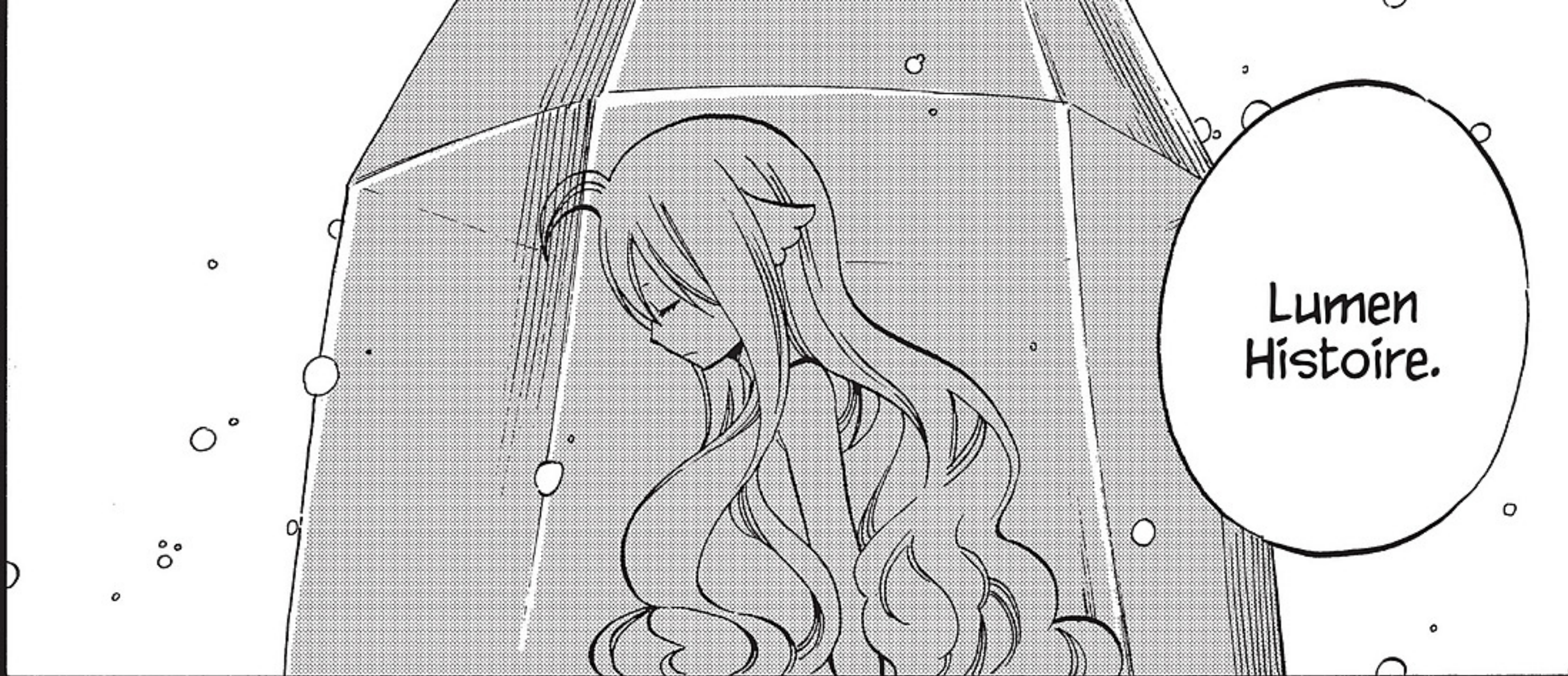


Do you know why they tried to invade?



I know that it tried to invade this continent ten years ago, but it failed!

What is *that* supposed to mean?!



Lumen
Histoire.



Albareth

The entire
reason Albareth
tried to invade a
decade ago...

...was to get
their hands
on Lumen
Histoire.

Ishgal

Fiore



Even Albareth
needed to
exercise caution
when we had those
weapons at our
disposal.

The Face
weapon that was
just brought to light
was also something
the Council
was keeping in
reserve.



Etherion
!!!



And the invasion
didn't fail. They called
it off for the time
being. After a show
of power from the
Council.



That Ishgal has no way to stop Albareth anymore.

Do you see what this means?

Right.



And neither Face nor Etherion exists anymore.

But the Council has been wiped out.



They will attempt another invasion.



We can't. So all that's left is to disband.

Wha—
...?!



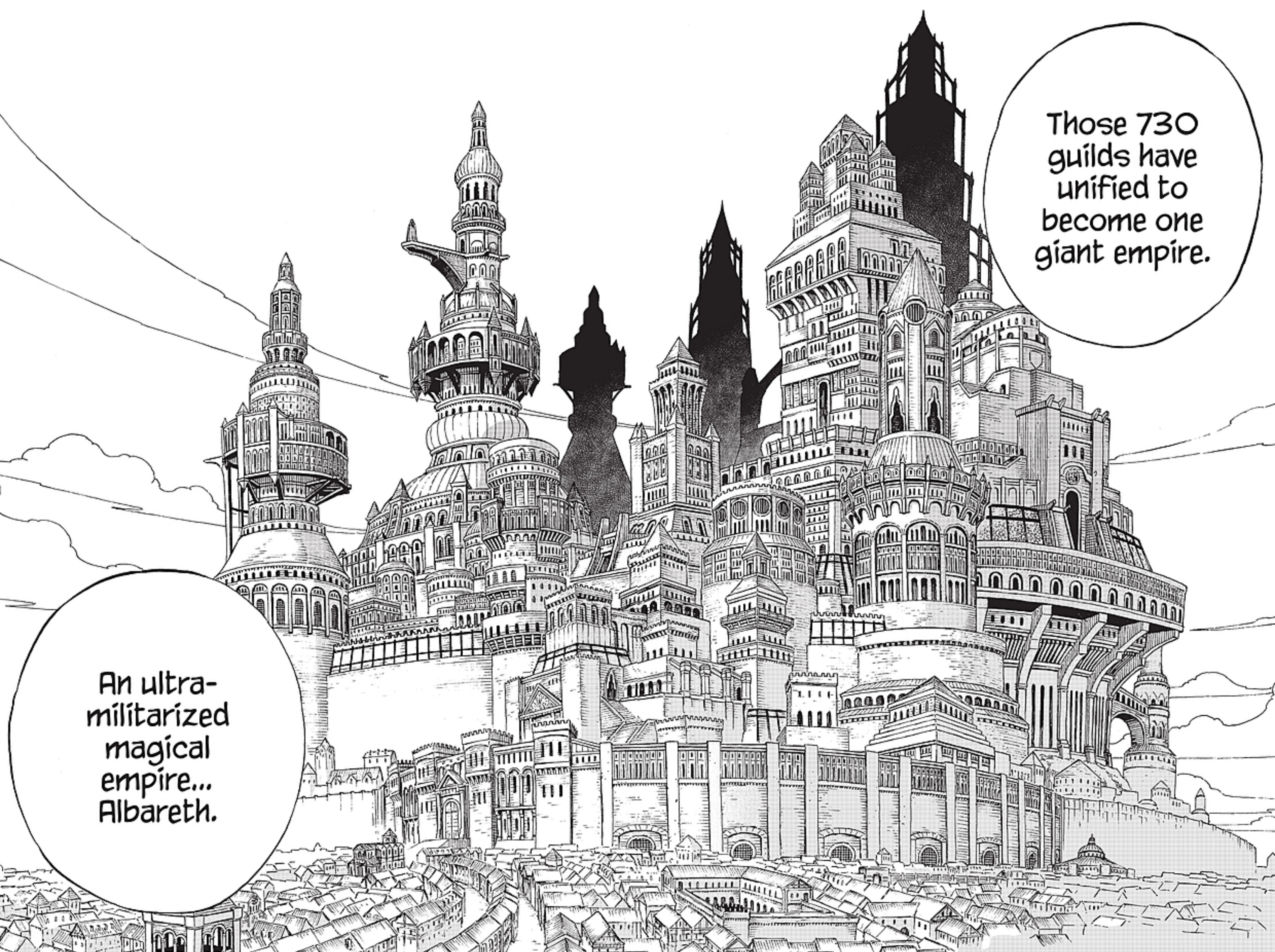
If they attack, we fight back! That's what Fairy Tail is all about, right?

But why disband the guild?!



On the Western Continent, there are some 730 guilds, counting both official and dark guilds.

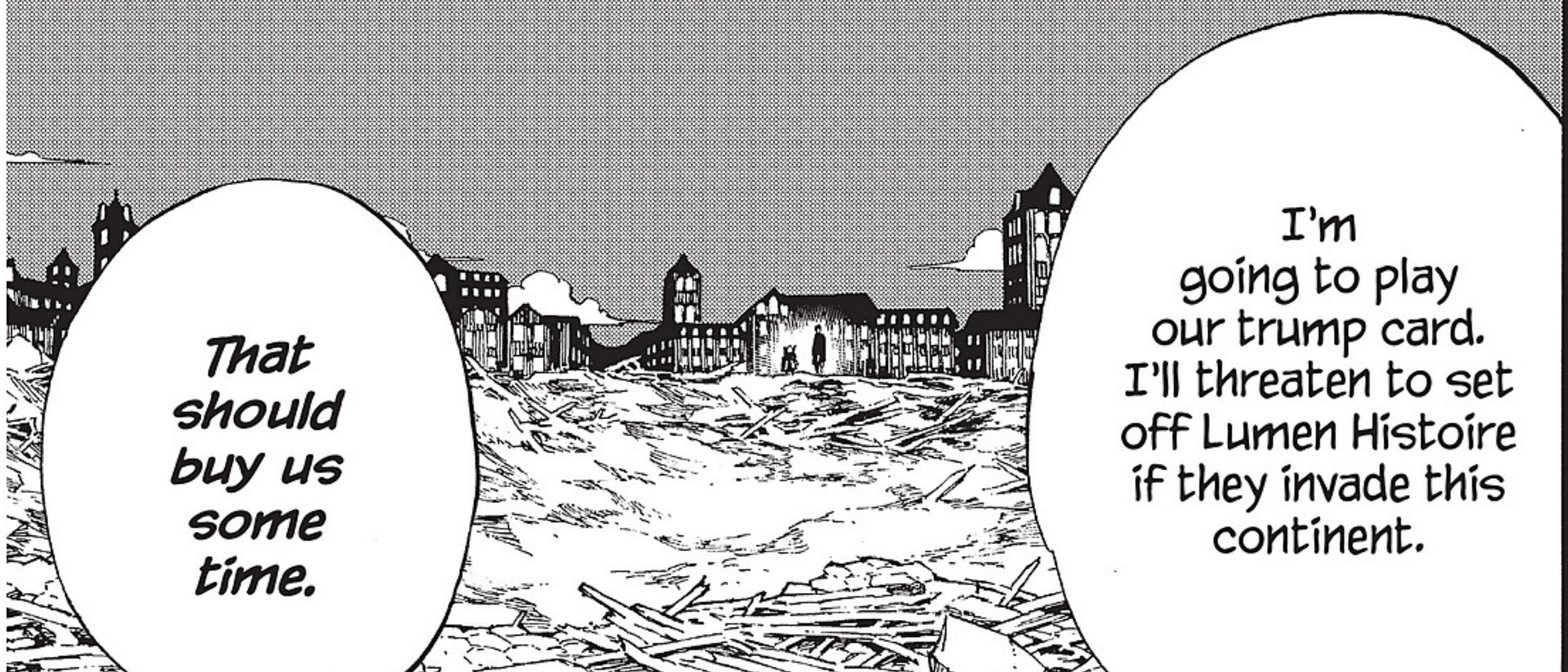
There are about 500 guilds in Ishgal, including Fairy Tail.



An ultra-
militarized
magical
empire...
Albareth.

Those 730
guilds have
unified to
become one
giant empire.





*That
should
buy us
some
time.*

I'm
going to play
our trump card.
I'll threaten to set
off Lumen Histoire
if they invade this
continent.

If anything were to
happen to me, and the
guild were still around,
then the kids would be
targeted.

Wait
just one
minute...

If the
Council
can reform
during that
time...

This is
just one
gamble.

KLENCH

**We have
to disband to
save the family!
That means more
than outward
appearances or
guild history!!!!**

**That
must
never
happen
!!!!**

A black and white manga panel showing a close-up of Naruto Uzumaki. He has a desperate, pleading expression on his face, with large tears streaming down his cheeks. His mouth is open as if he is shouting or crying out. He is wearing his signature headband.

You're
marching
towards your
own death...

Master...you're
taking on too
much! How can
one man stop
an empire...?

A large black and white manga panel featuring a close-up of Mito Muzumi. He has a very stern, almost angry expression, with his eyes narrowed and a firm, unyielding look. He has a thick mustache and is wearing a headband. His hair is spiky and light-colored.

**I'm taking
responsibility
for my family's
life!!!!**

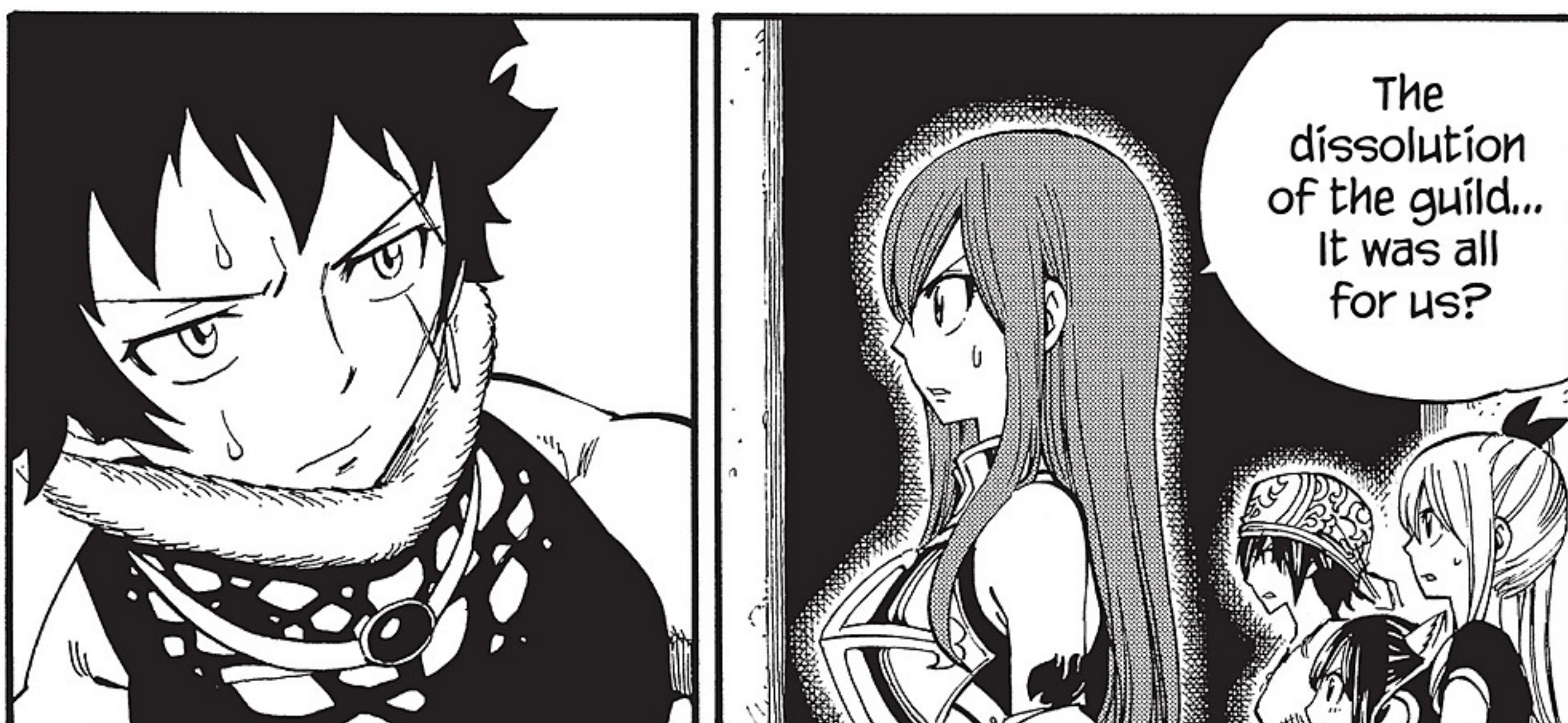
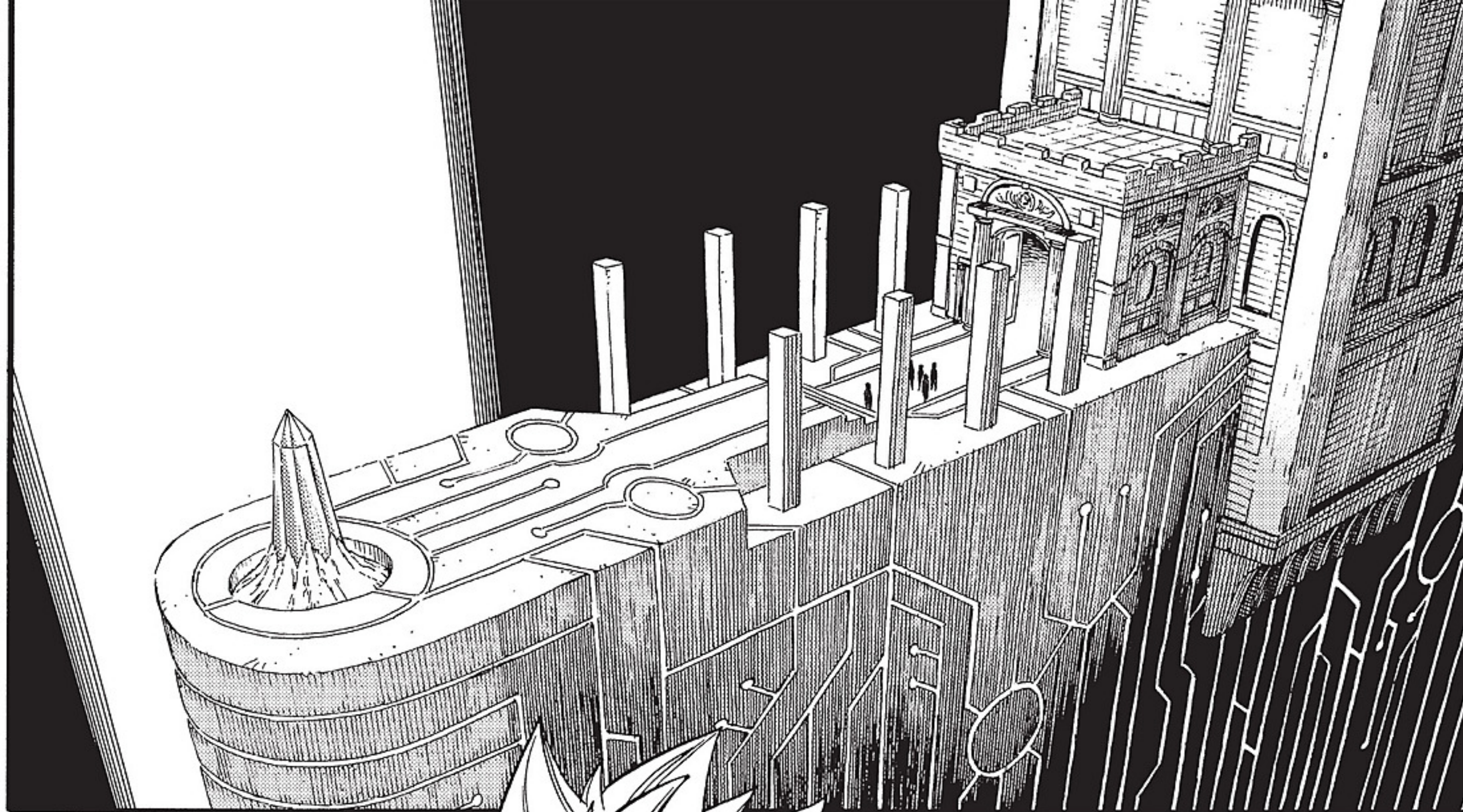
**That's
what a
father does,
right?!**

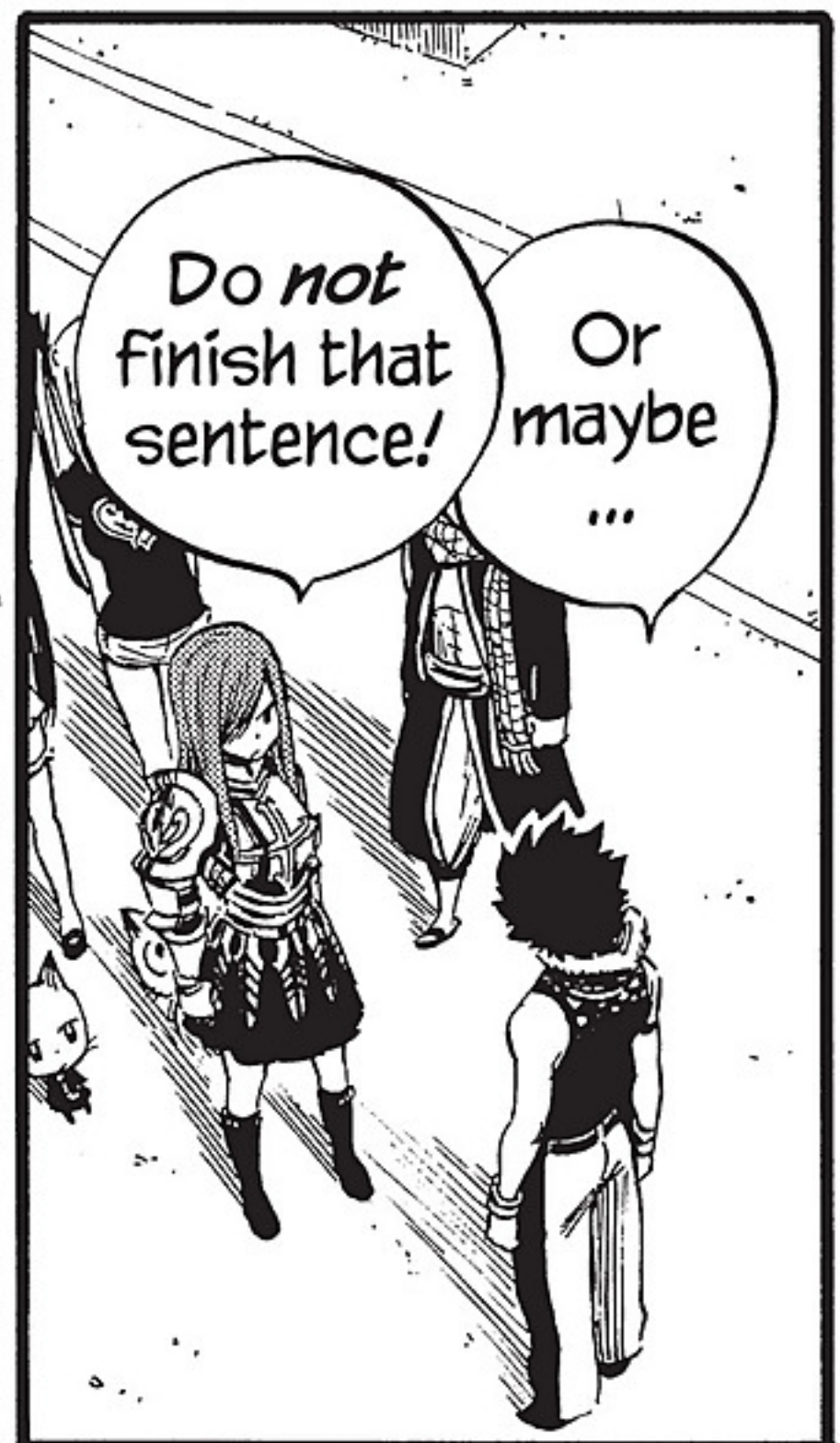
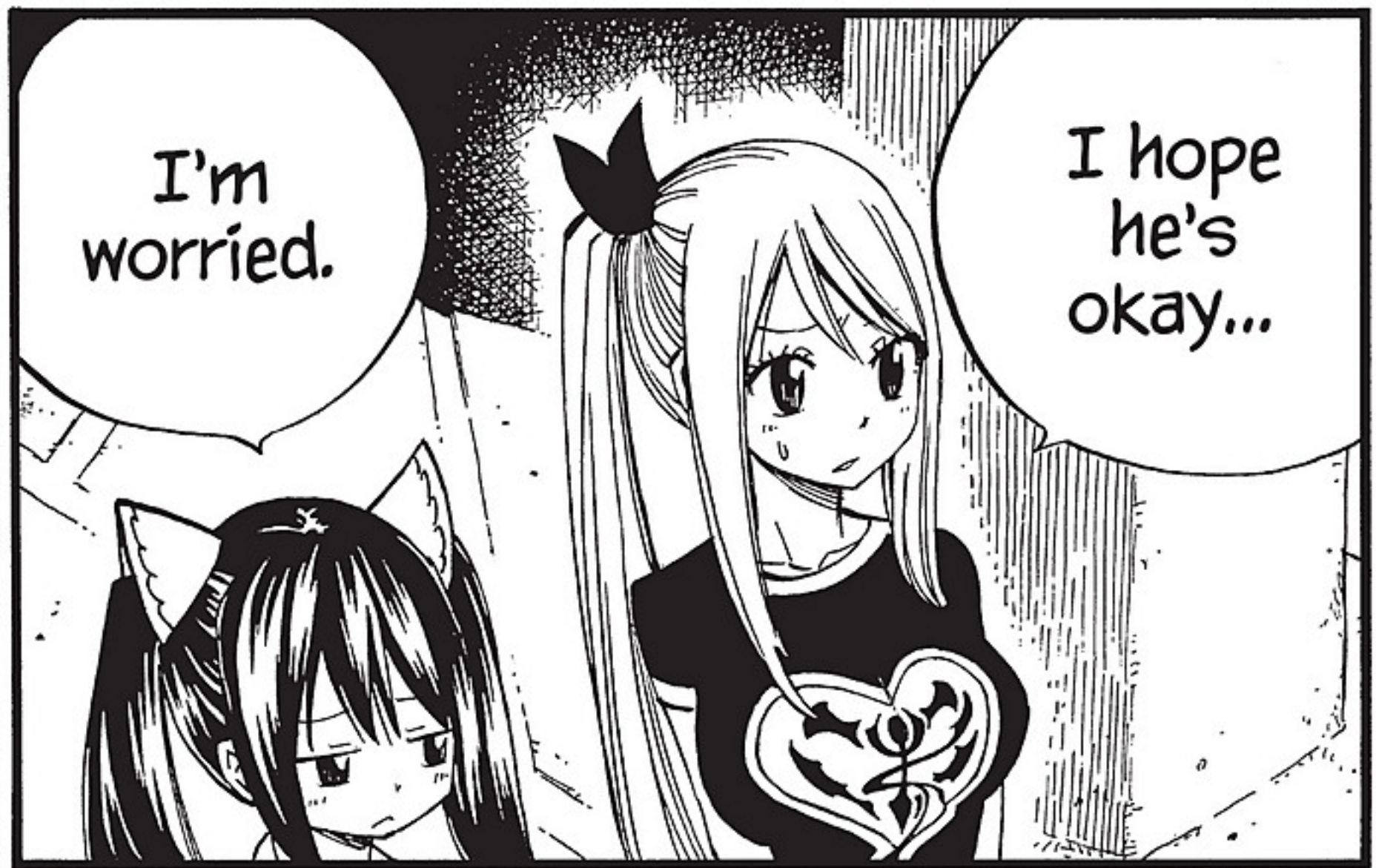
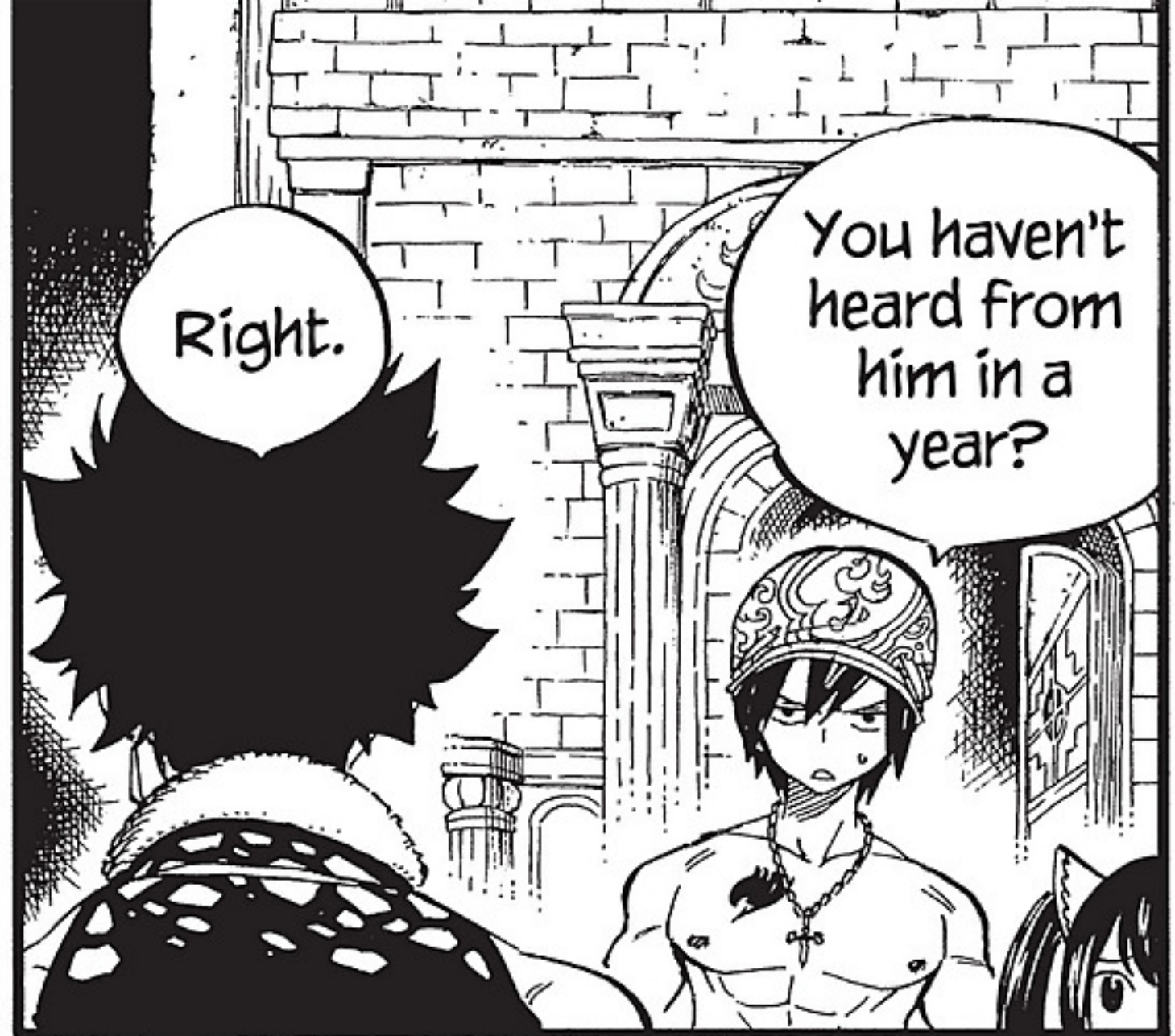
FAIRY TAIL

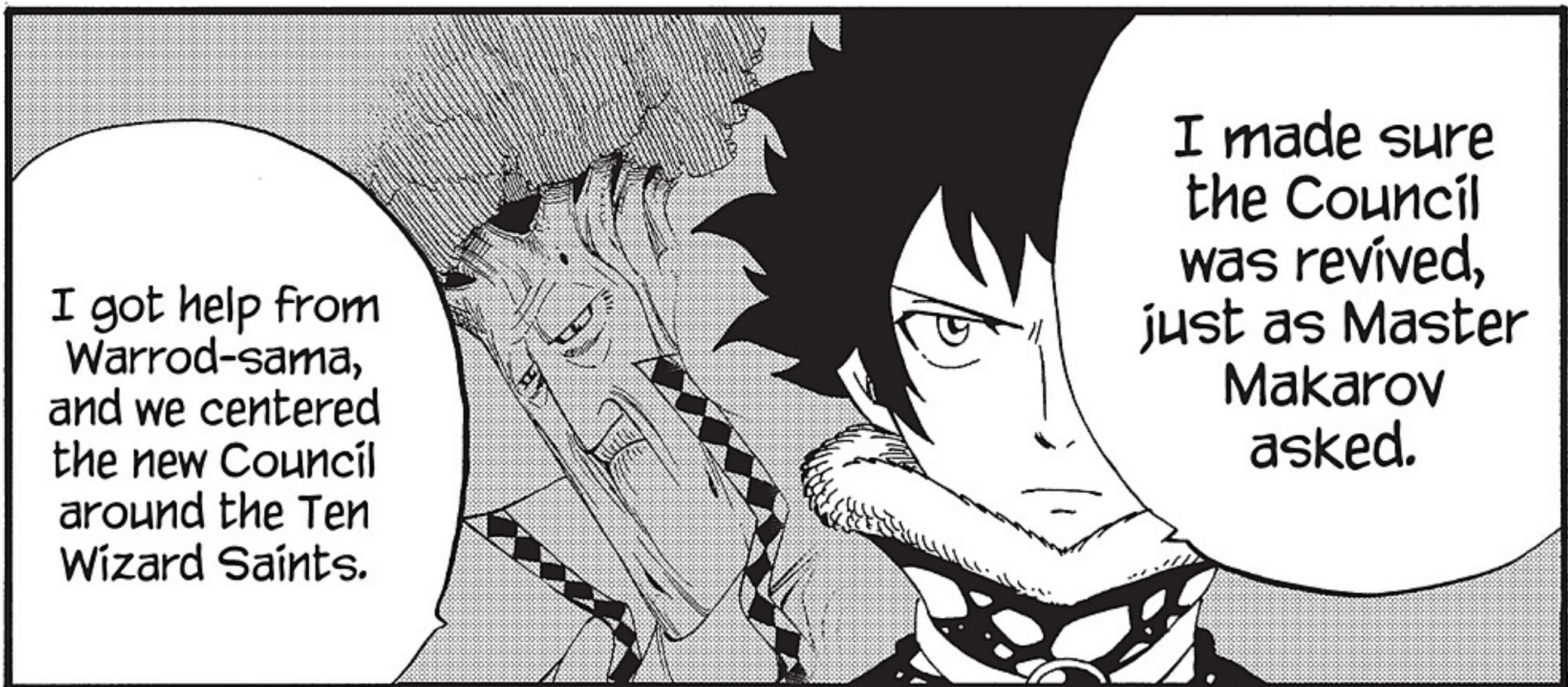
フェアリーテイル

Chapter 440: God Serena



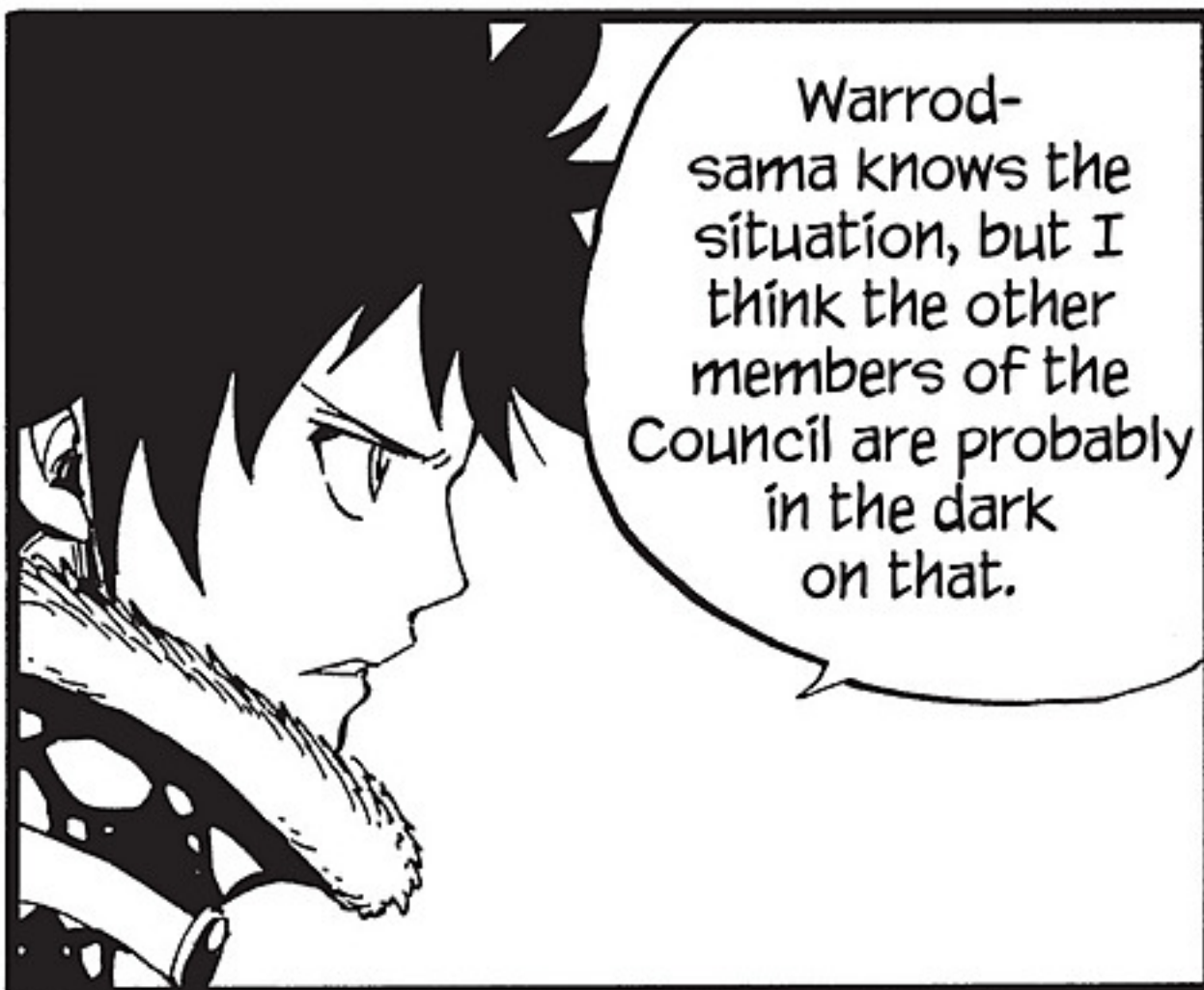




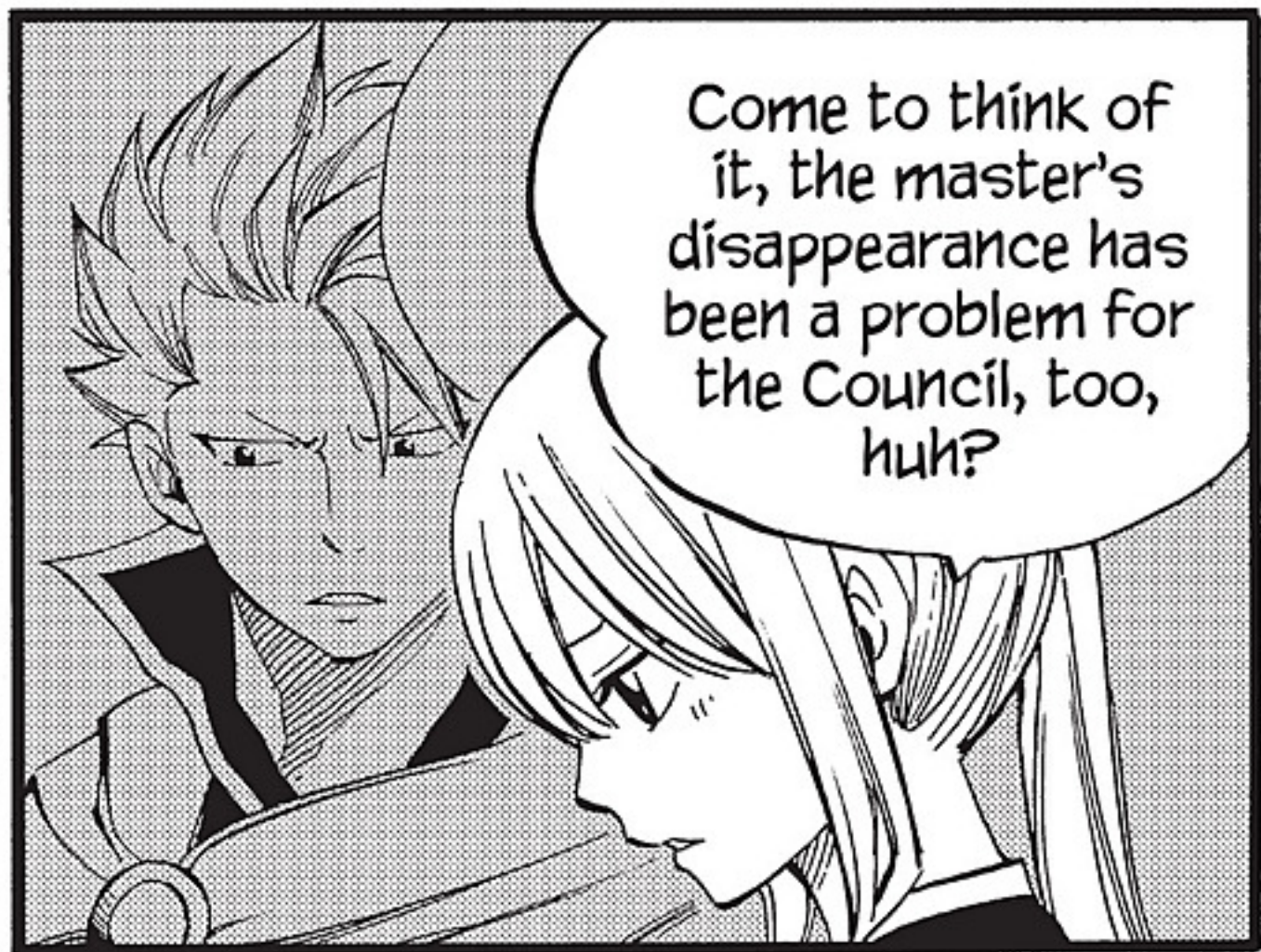


I got help from Warrod-sama, and we centered the new Council around the Ten Wizard Saints.

I made sure the Council was revived, just as Master Makarov asked.



Warrod-sama knows the situation, but I think the other members of the Council are probably in the dark on that.



Come to think of it, the master's disappearance has been a problem for the Council, too, huh?



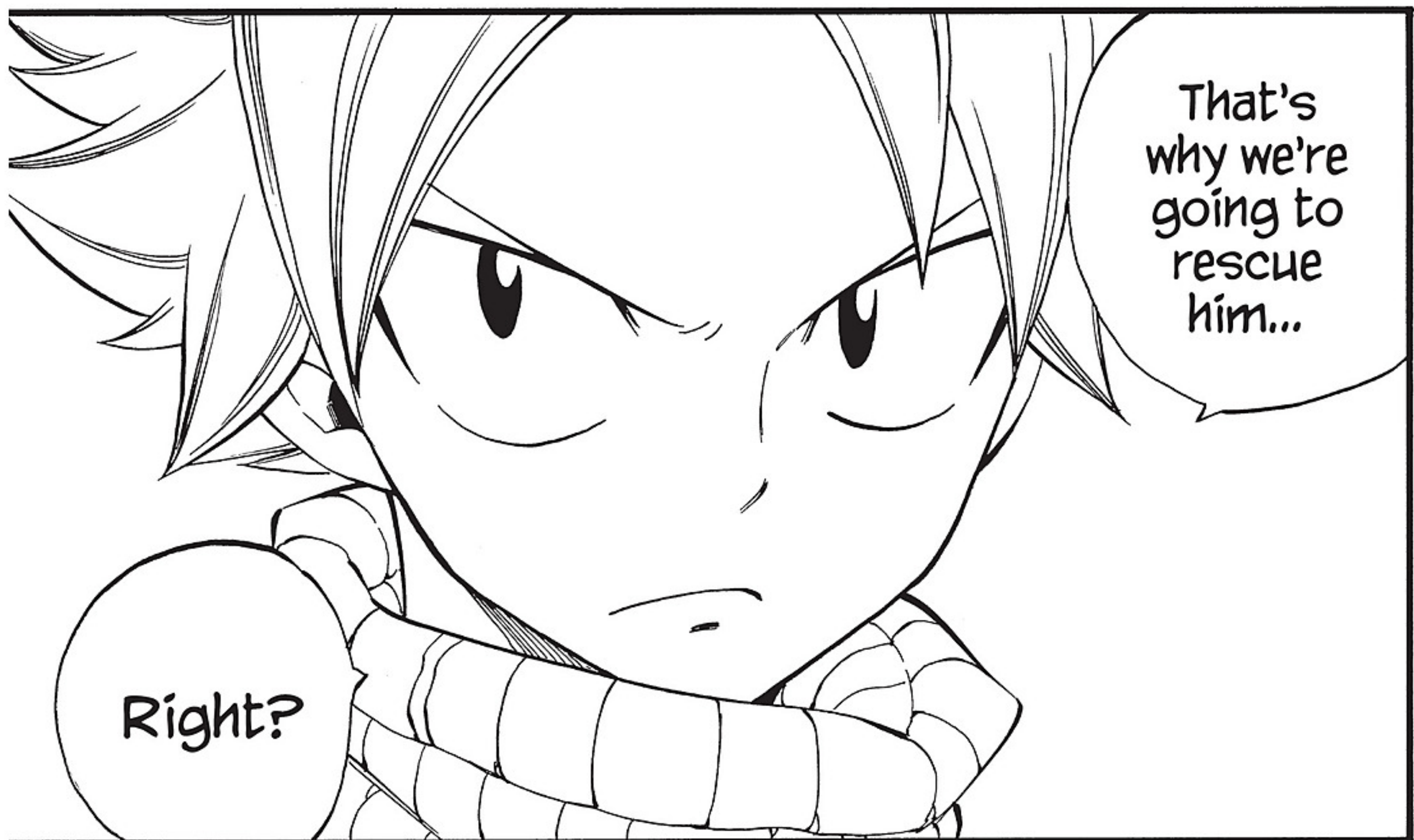
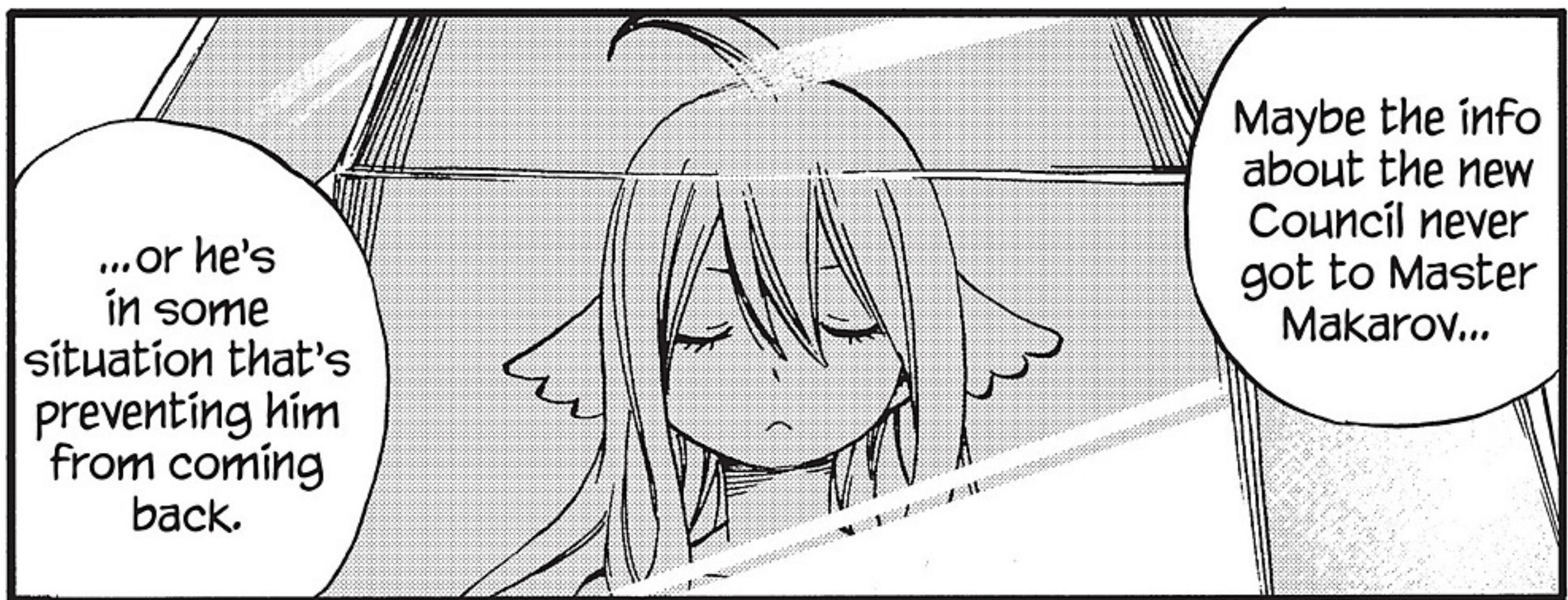
If the old man's idea of buying time did just that, then he should be trying to get home, right?

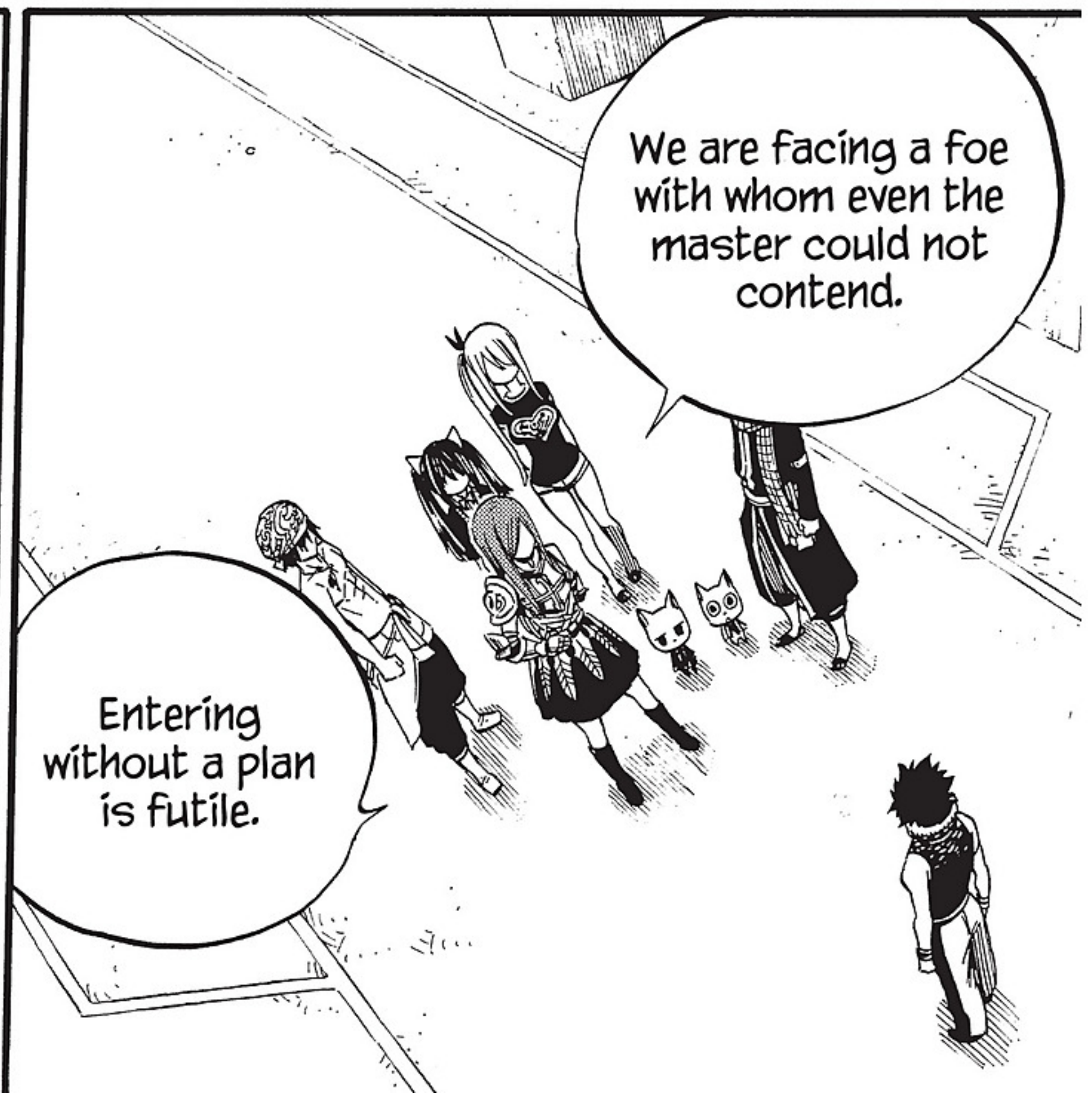
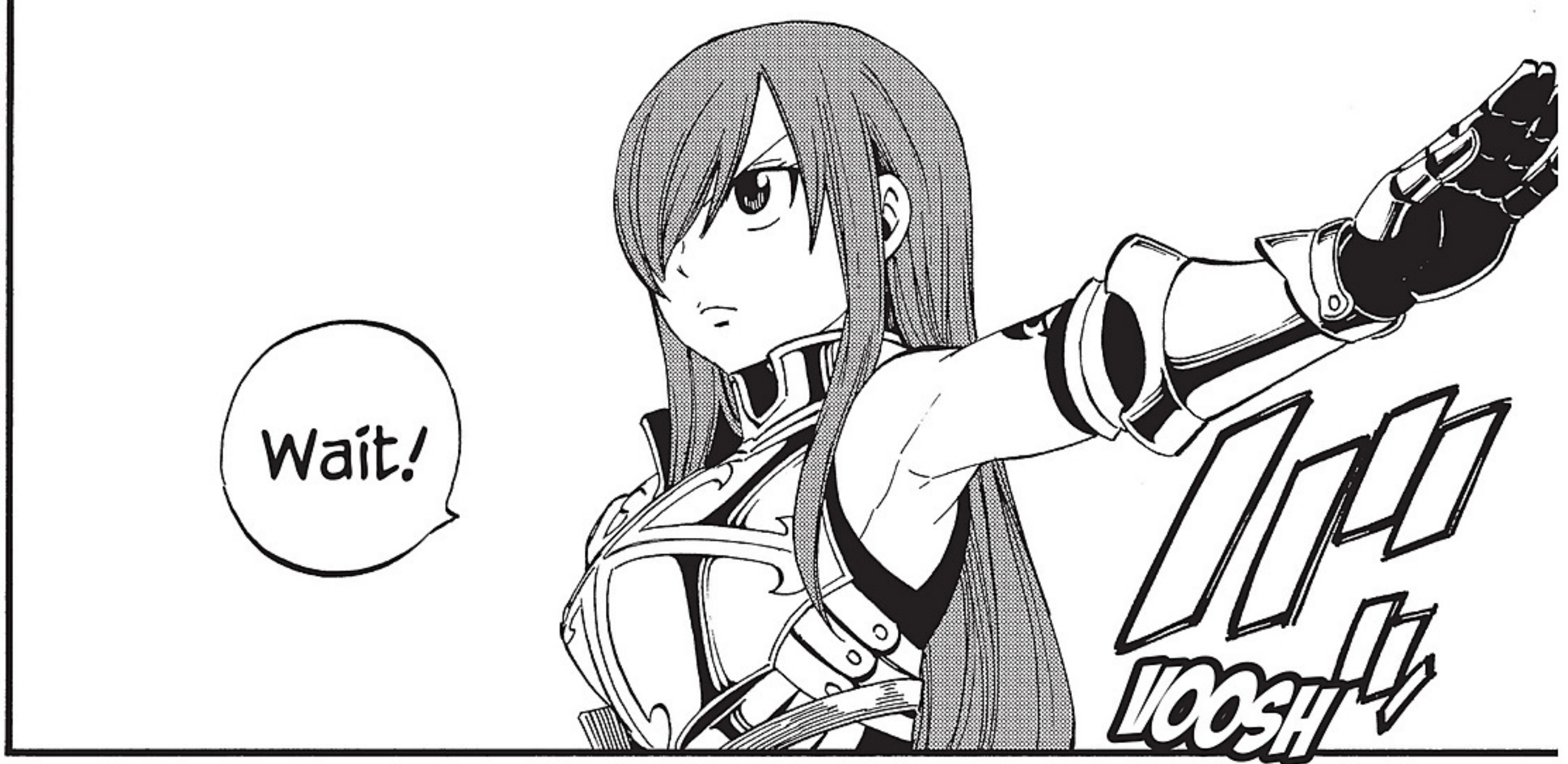
If everything went as planned.

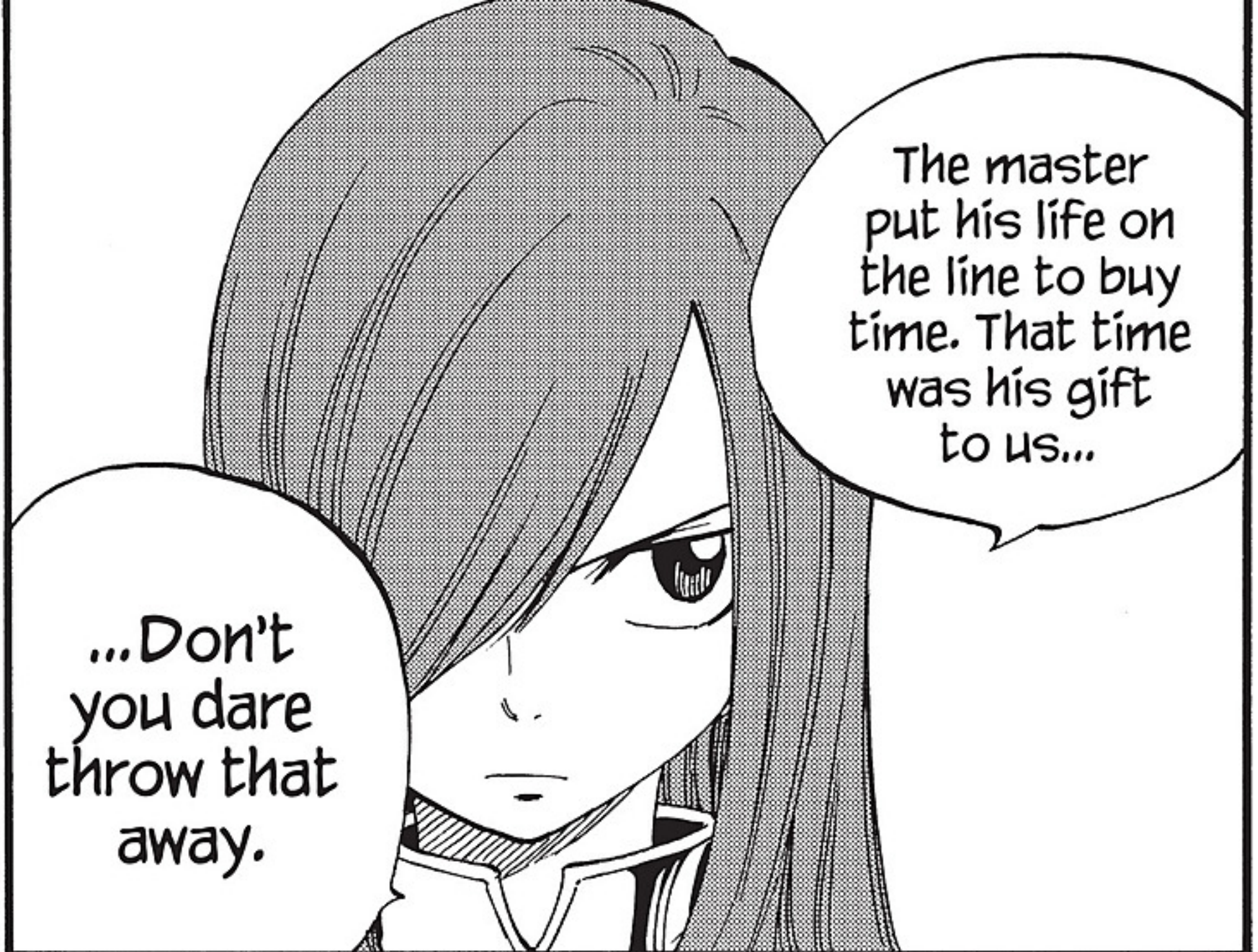


They do all recognize the threat that the Albareth Empire poses, though.

They're already setting up a defensive line to deter any new invasions.

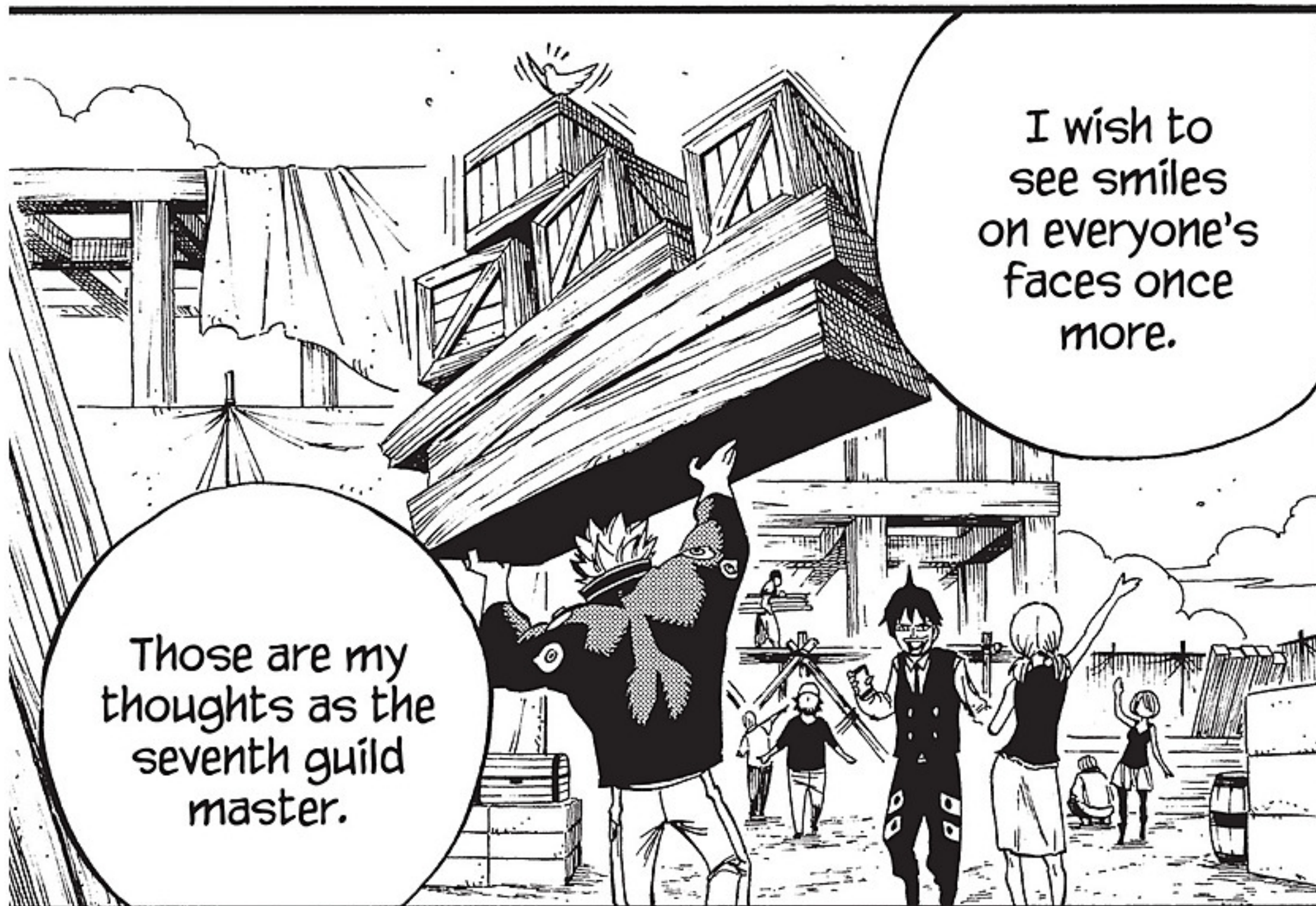






...Don't
you dare
throw that
away.

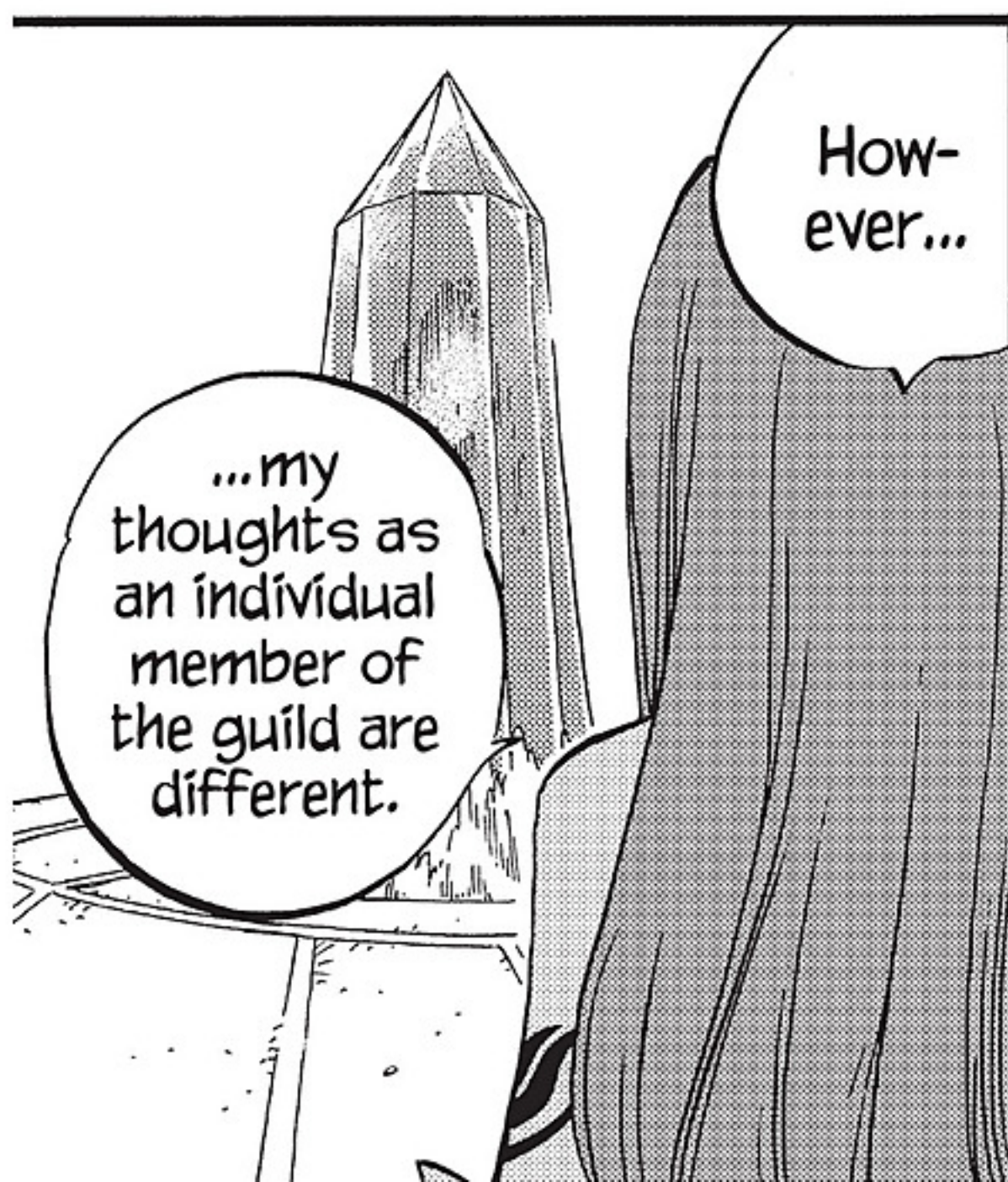
The master
put his life on
the line to buy
time. That time
was his gift
to us...



Those are my
thoughts as the
seventh guild
master.

I wish to
see smiles
on everyone's
faces once
more.

We will rebuild the
guild hall, begin
taking jobs
again, and fully
revive Fairy Tail.



...my
thoughts as
an individual
member of
the guild are
different.

How-
ever...



Hey!
You don't
mean...

Erza-
san...



**We must
rescue the
master!!!**

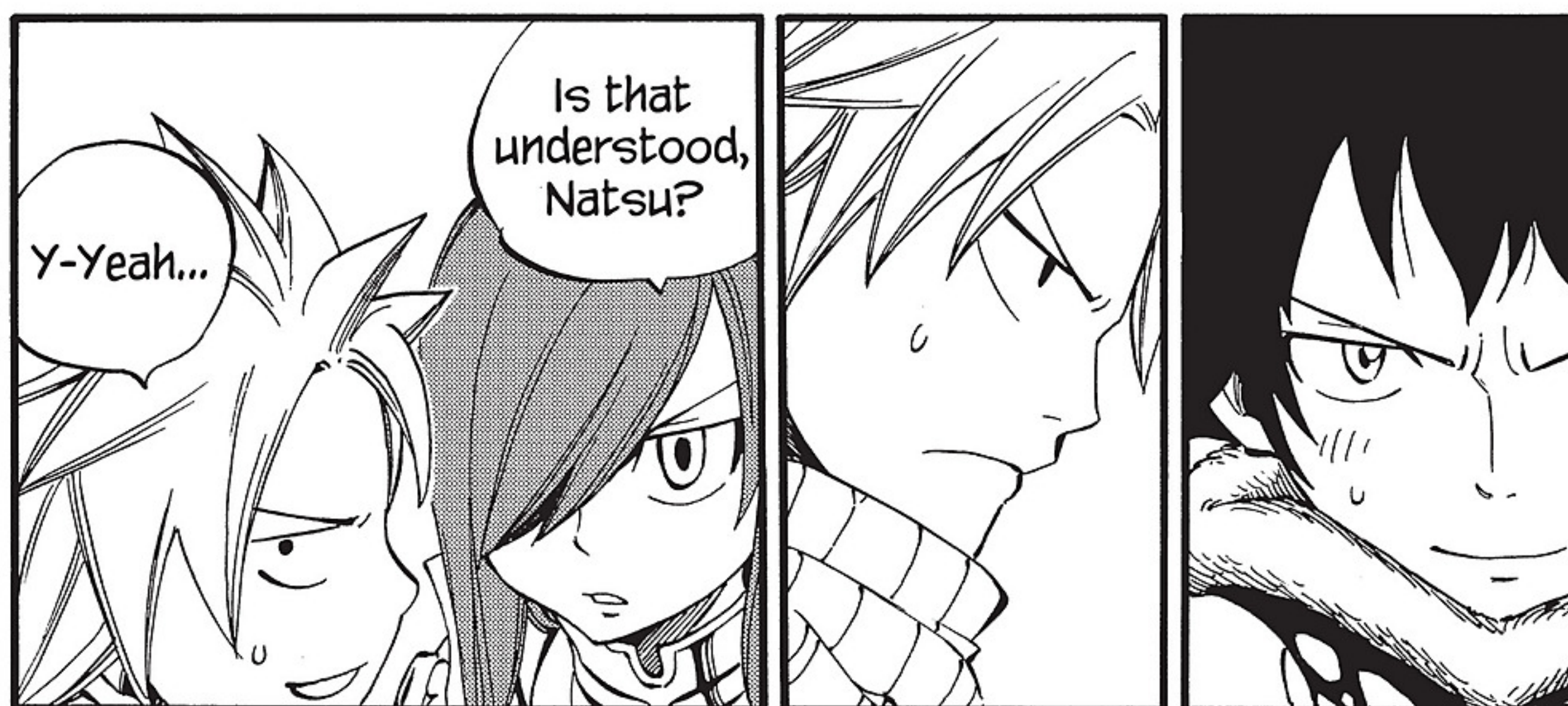
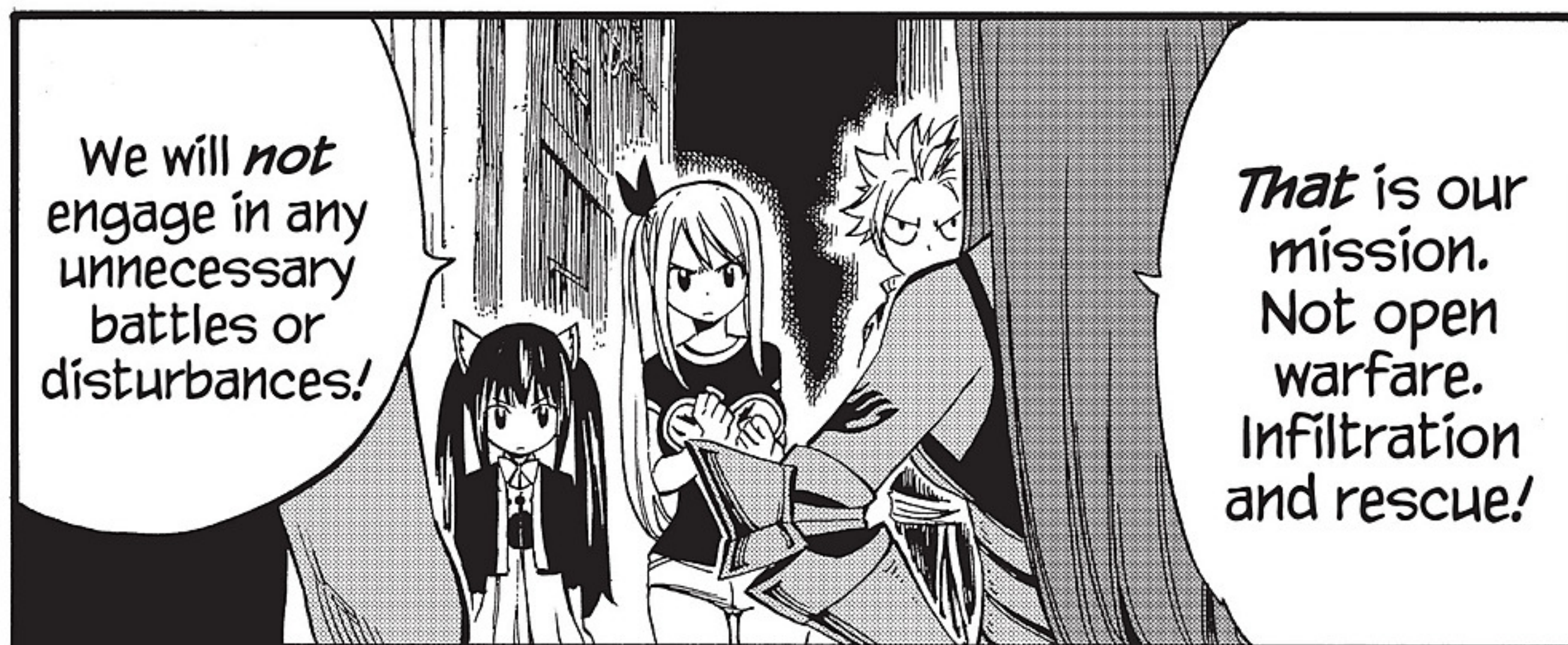
**Therefore,
we will take
action—just
those of us
gathered
here.**

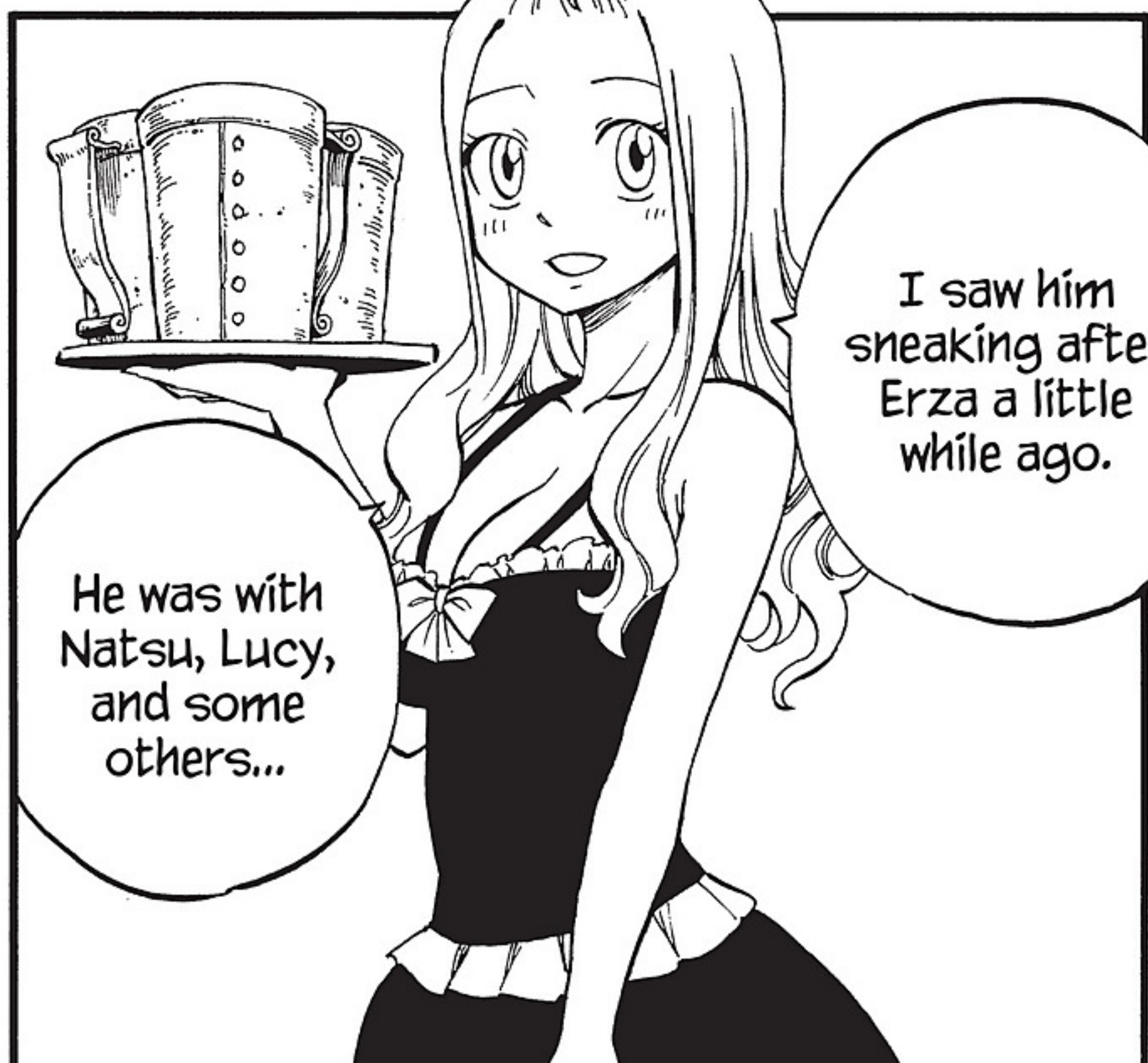
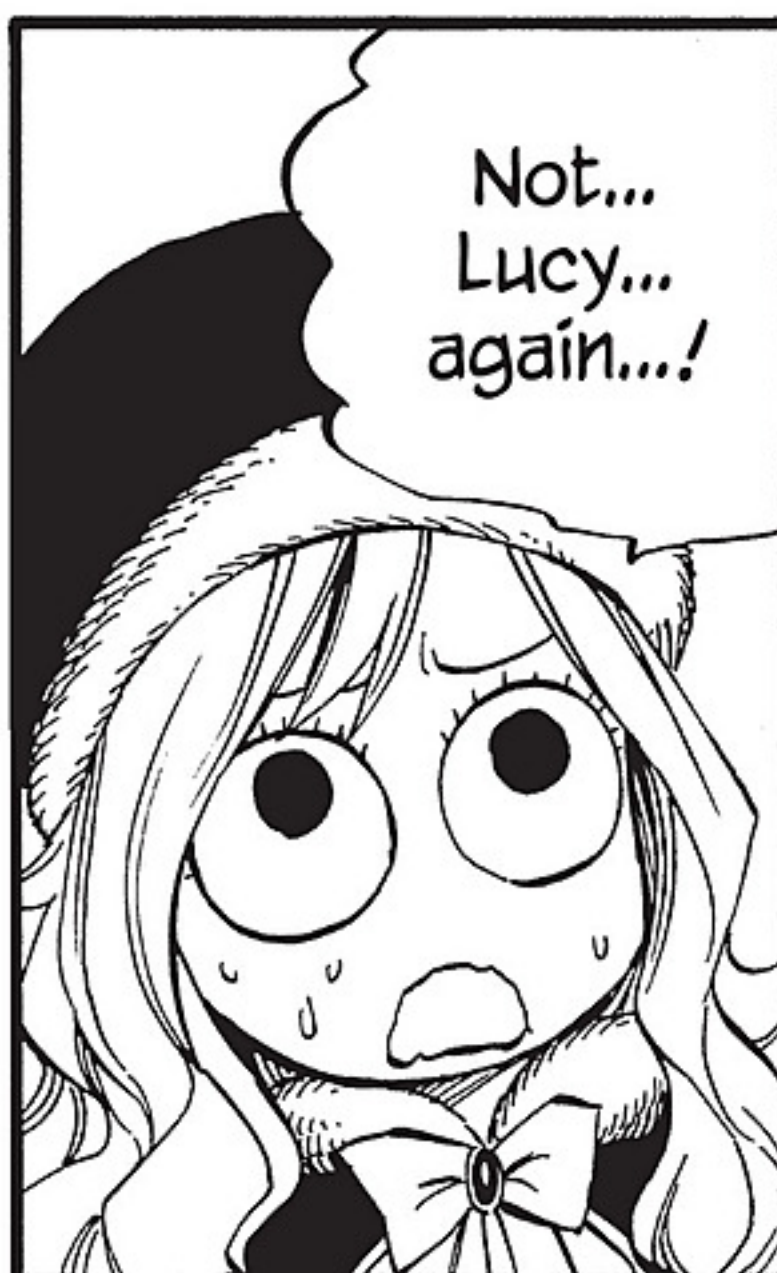
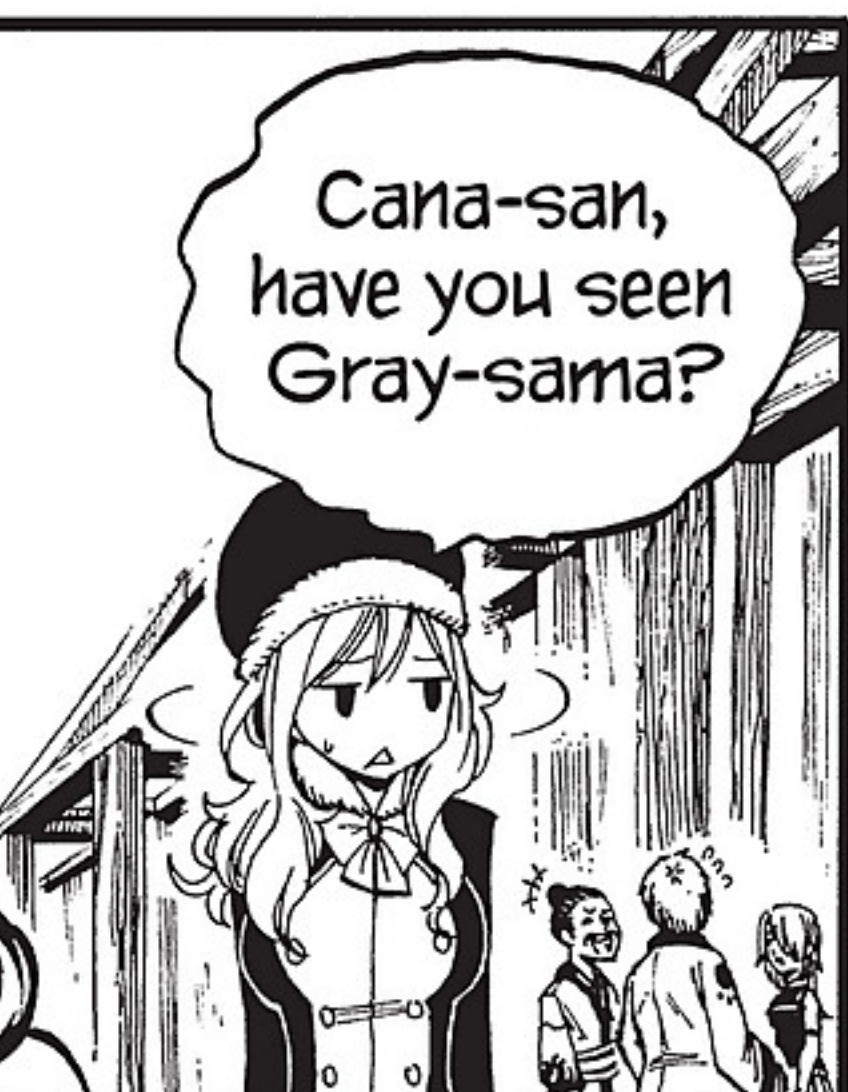
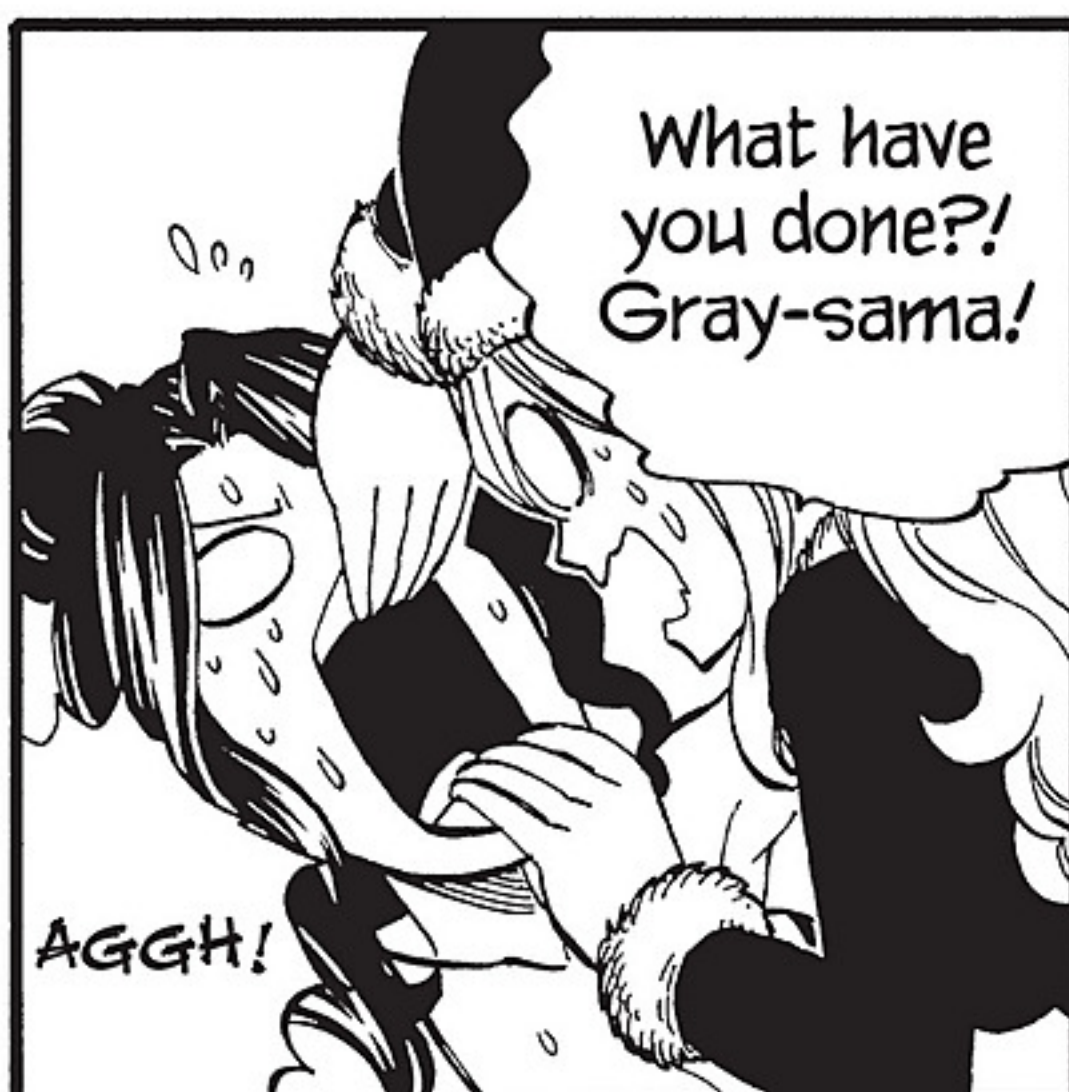
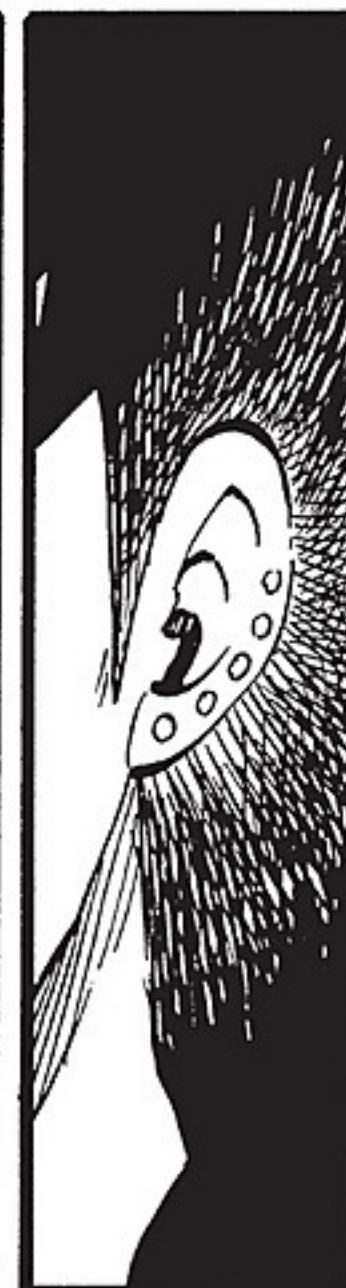
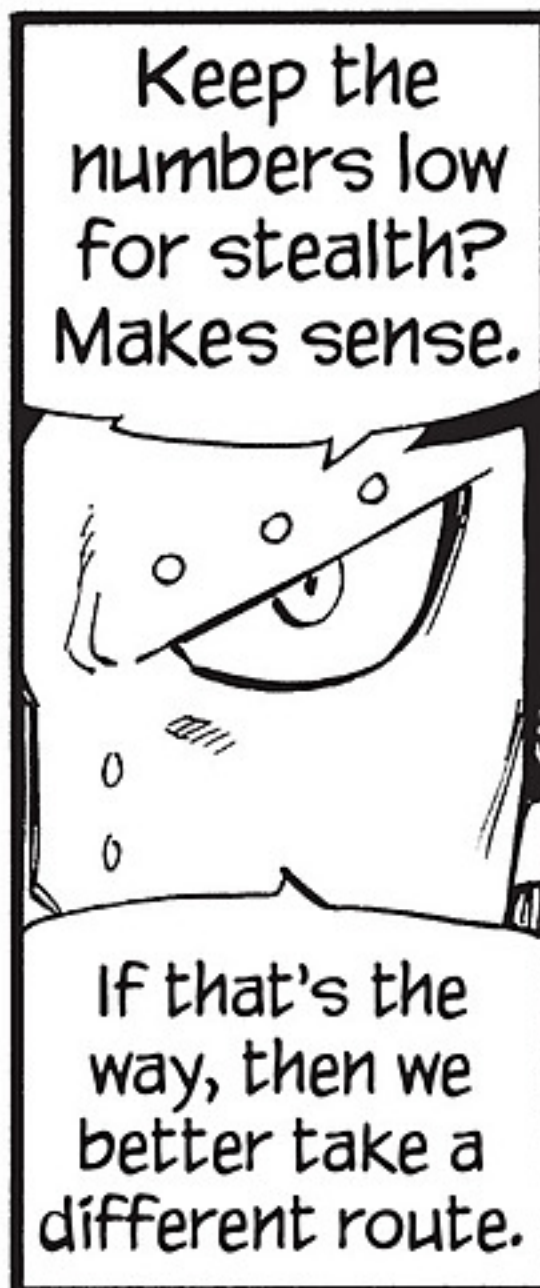


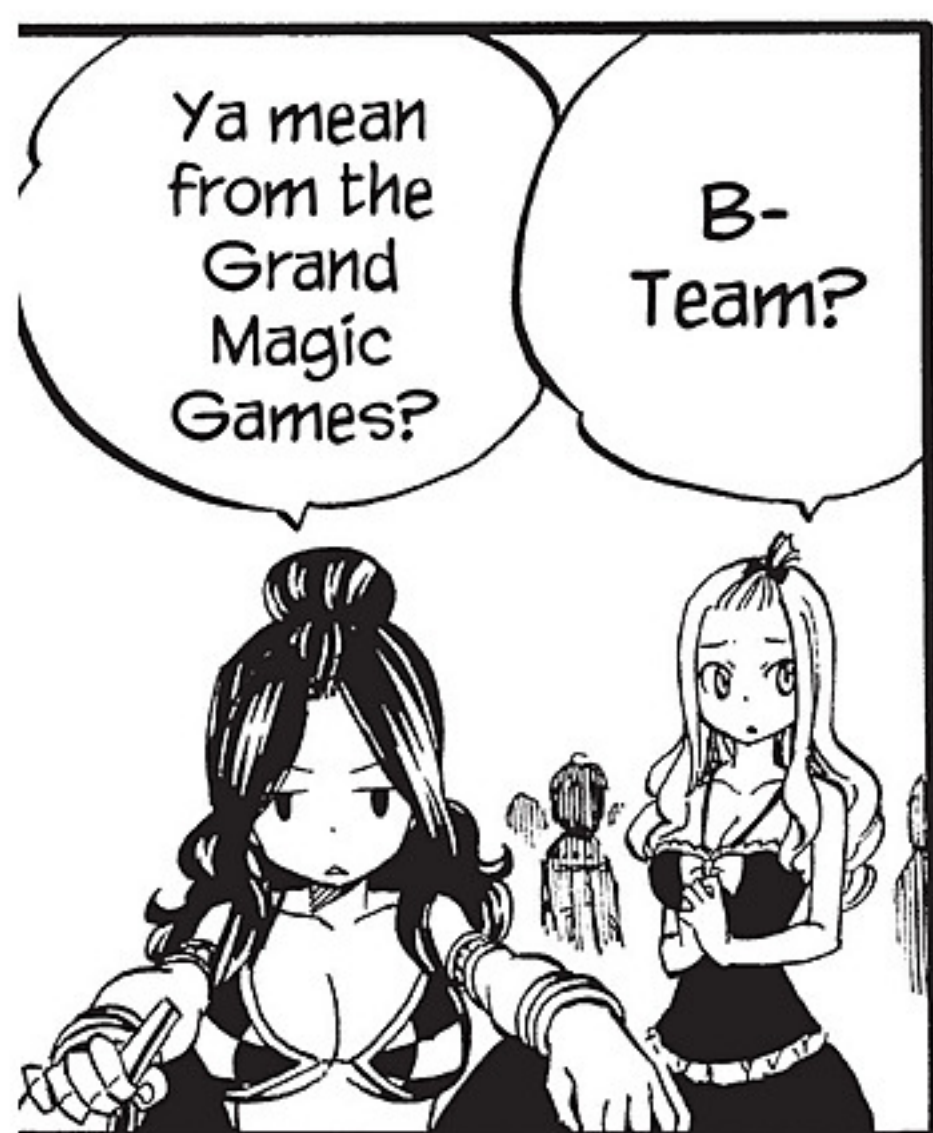
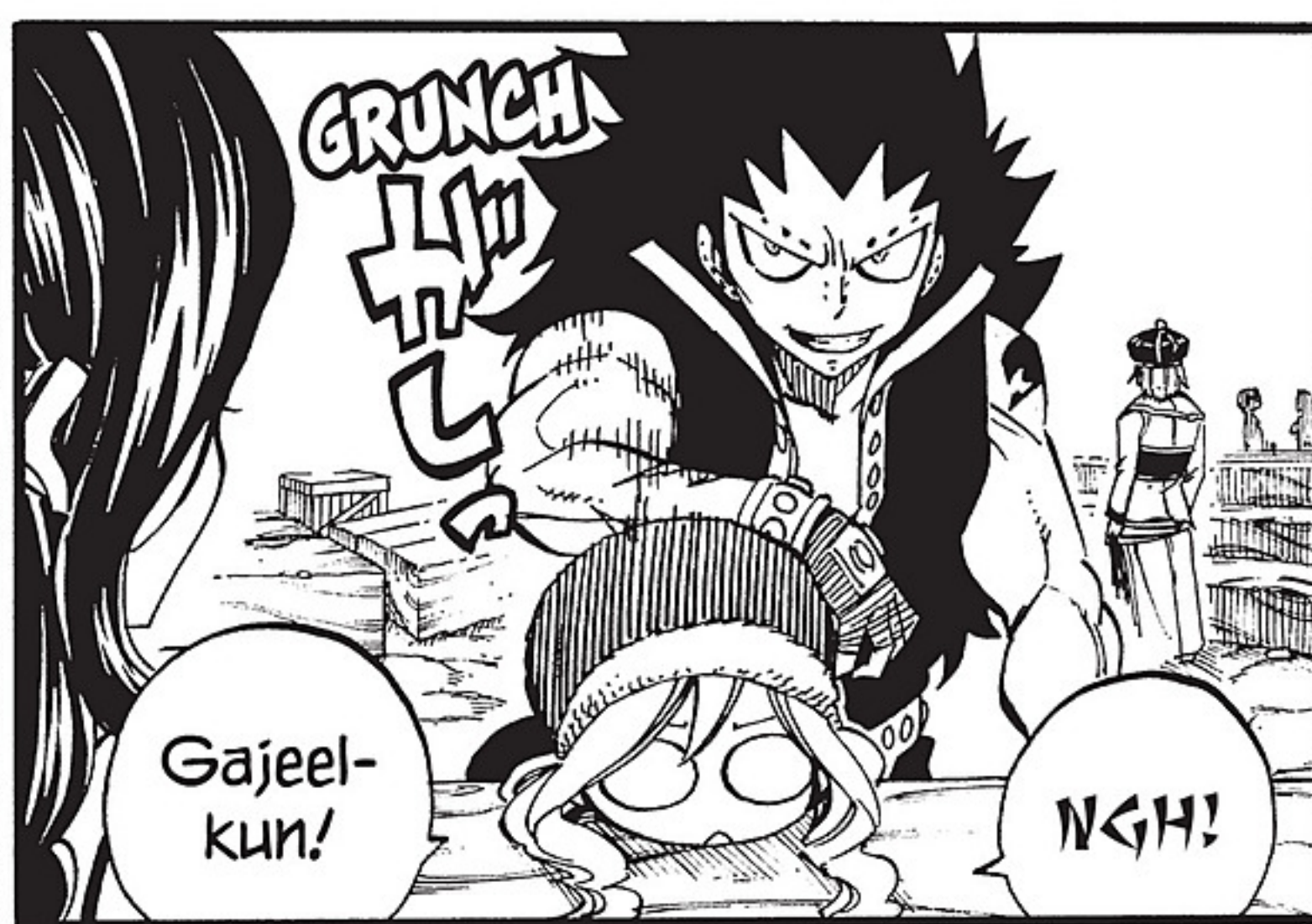
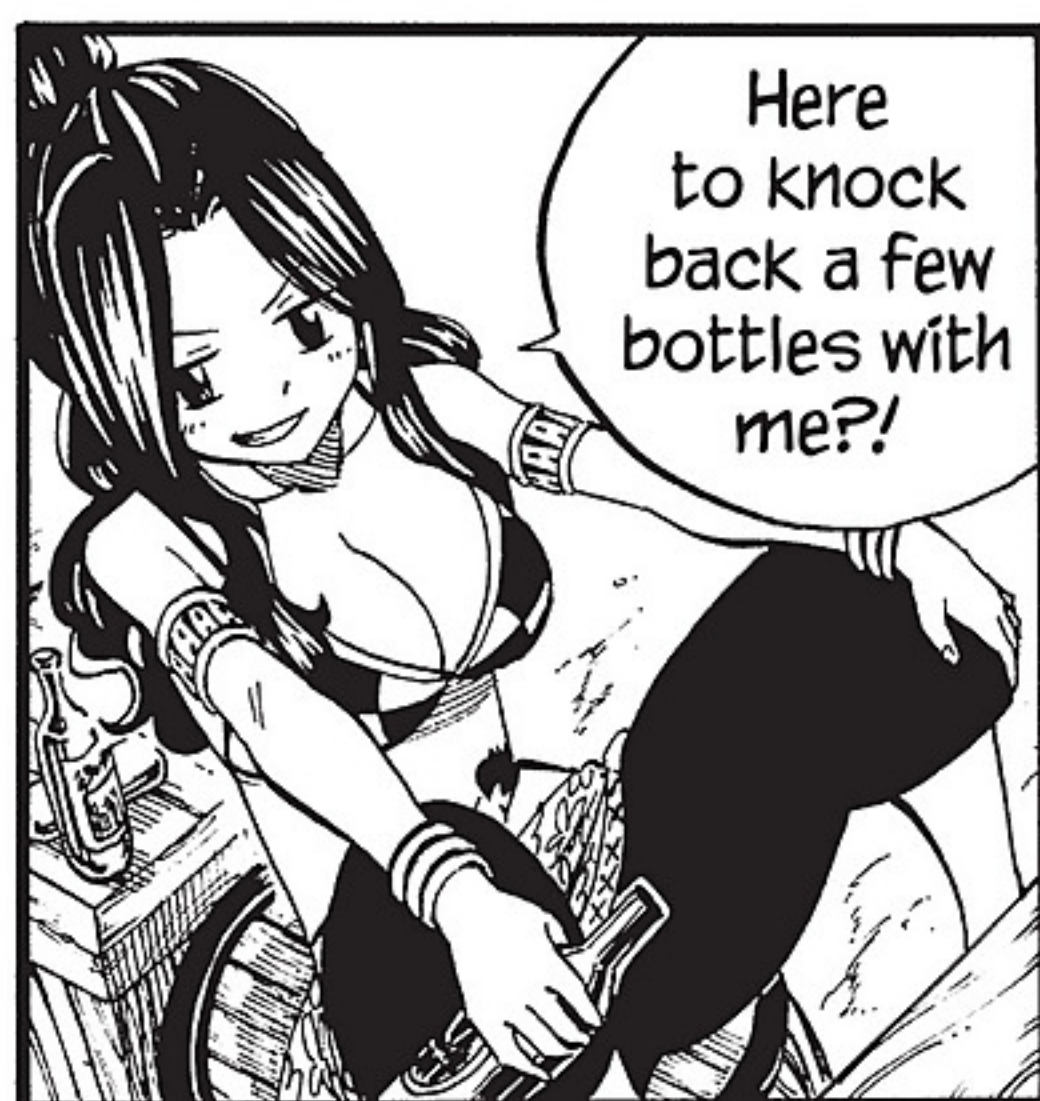
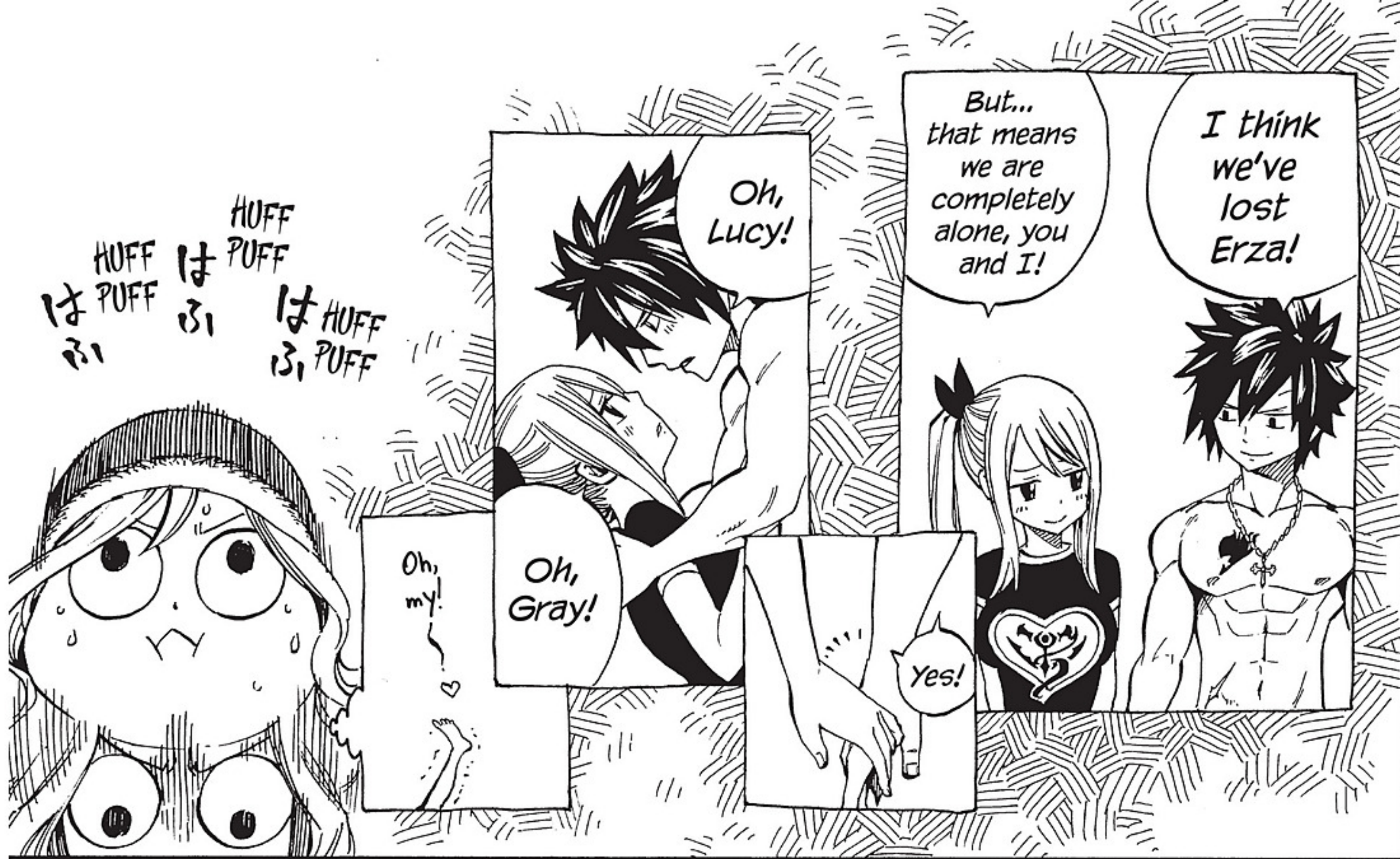
We must
infiltrate
the Albareth
Empire, and
rescue the
master...

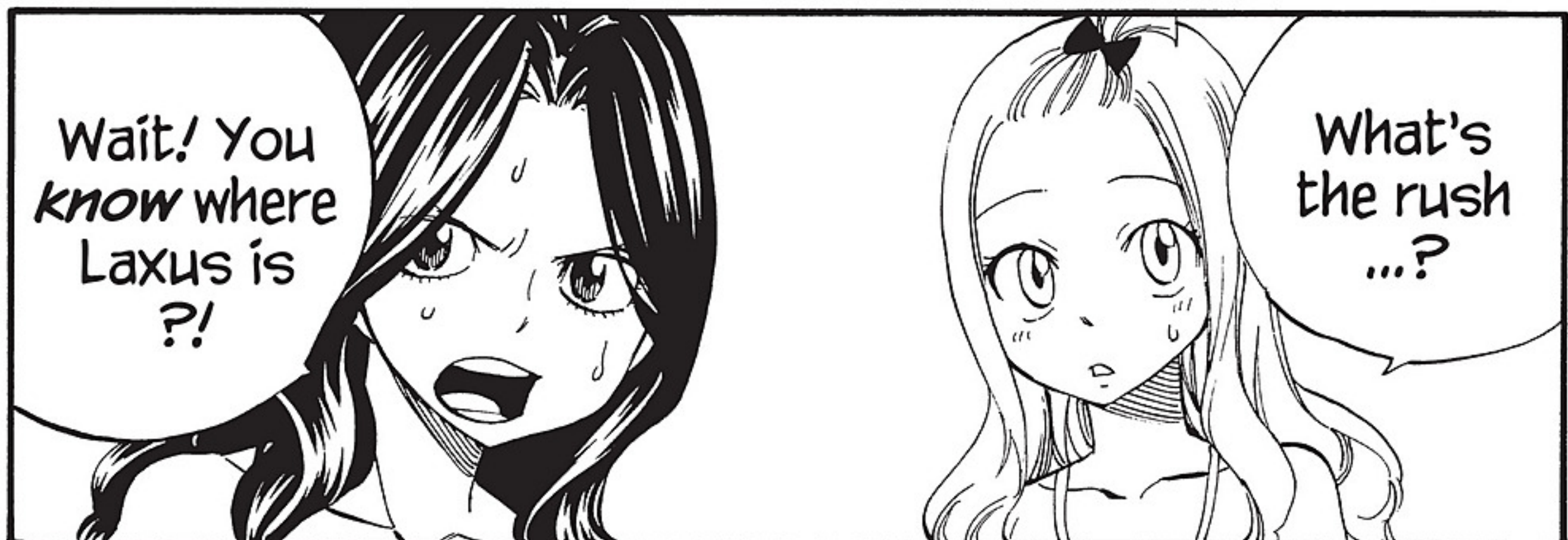
And
escape
safely.

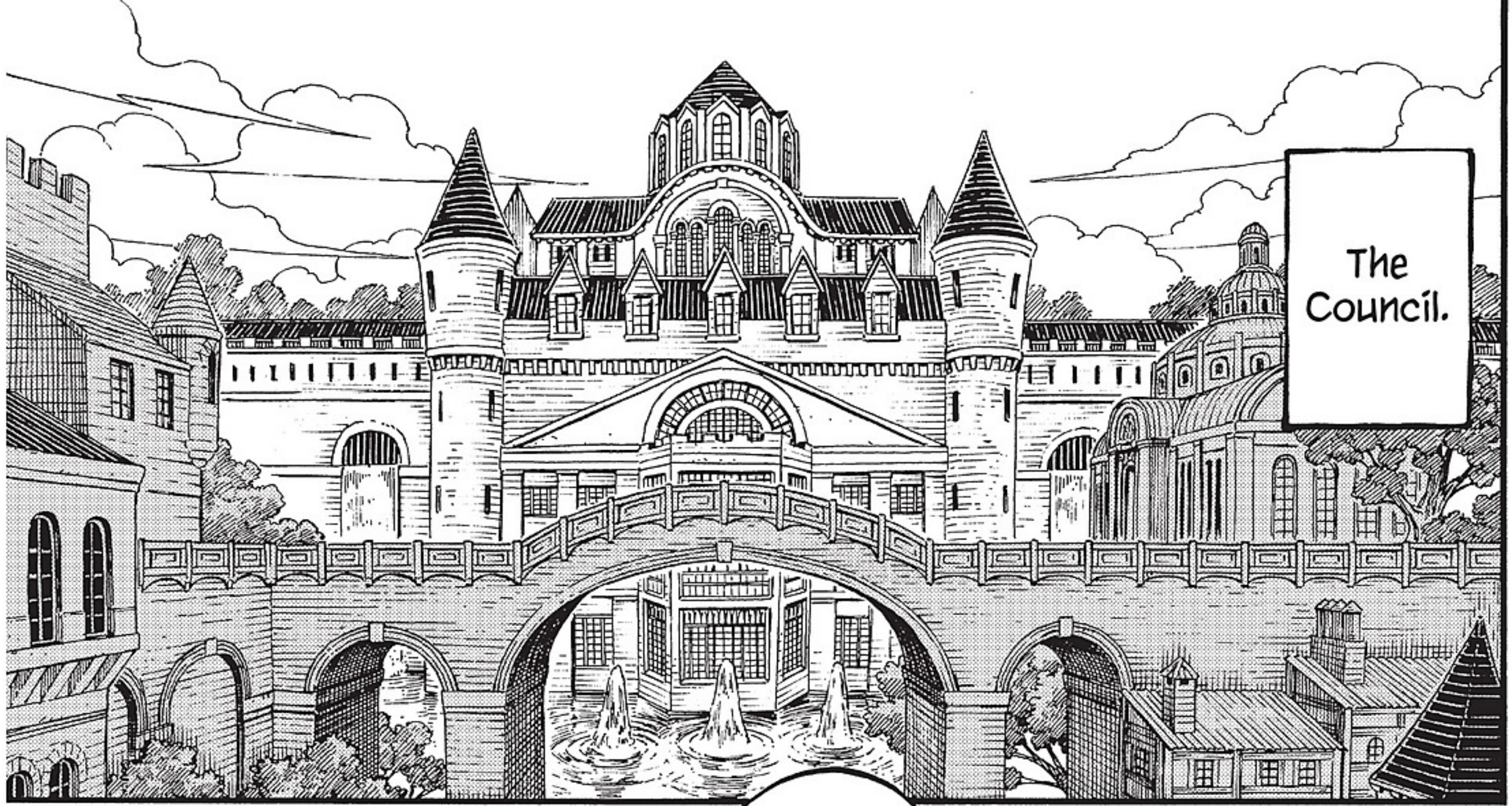
The
smaller our
numbers,
the better.











The
Council.



Hm! All the
paperwork
appears to be
in order!

It was wise
of you to
select Erza as
master. My
compliments.



FIFTH-RANKED
MEMBER OF THE
TEN WIZARD
SAINTS

JURA NEEKIS



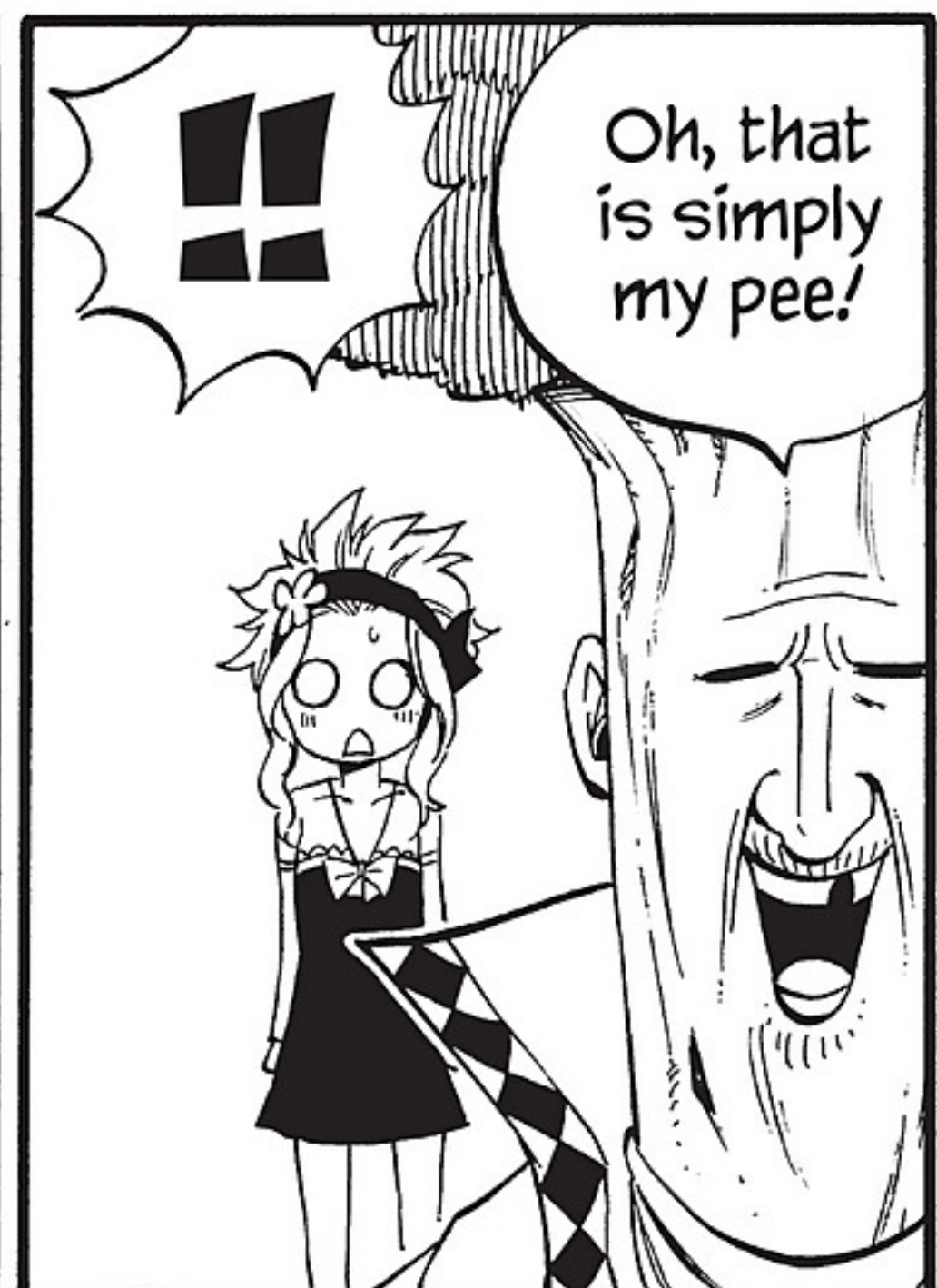
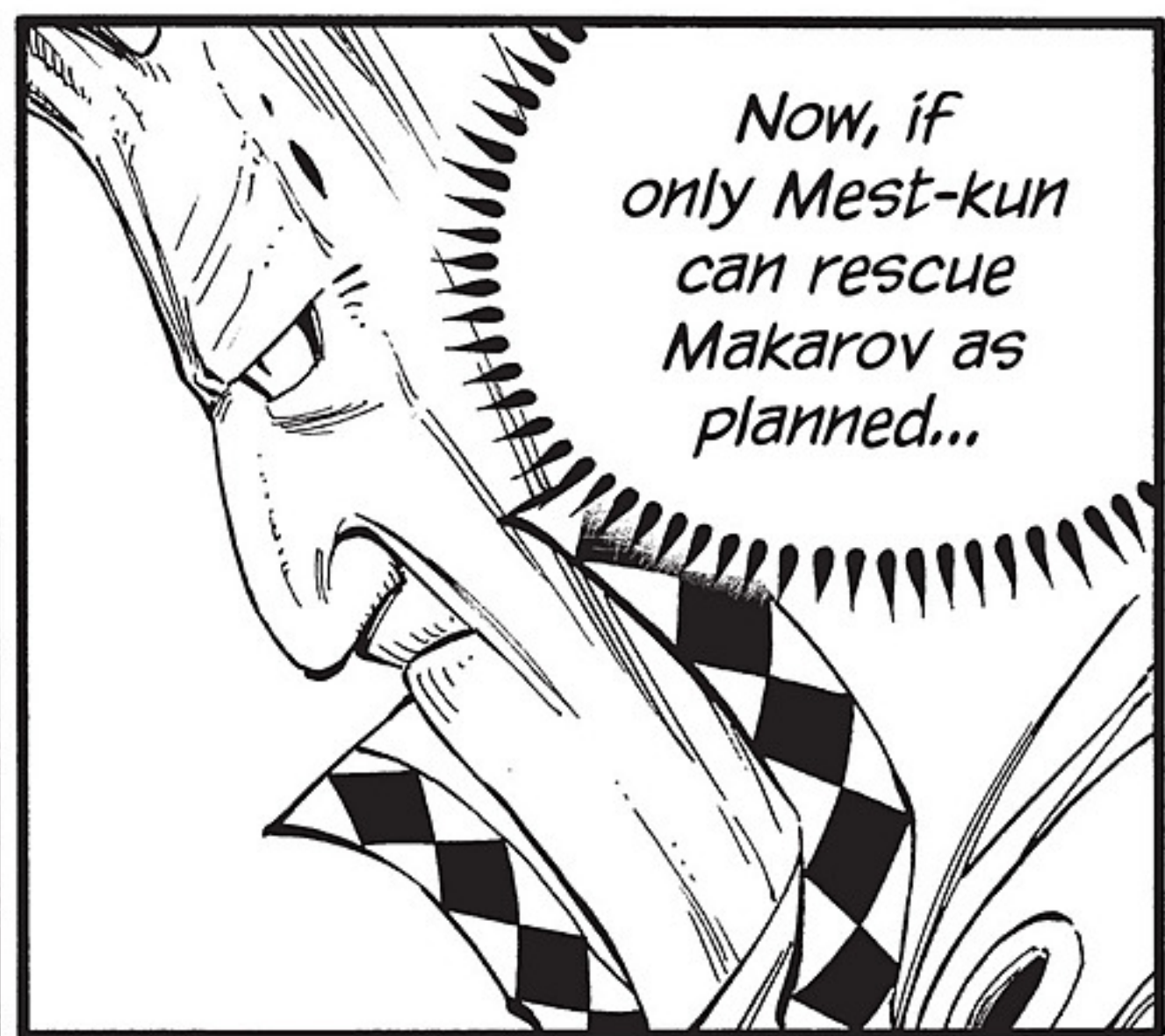
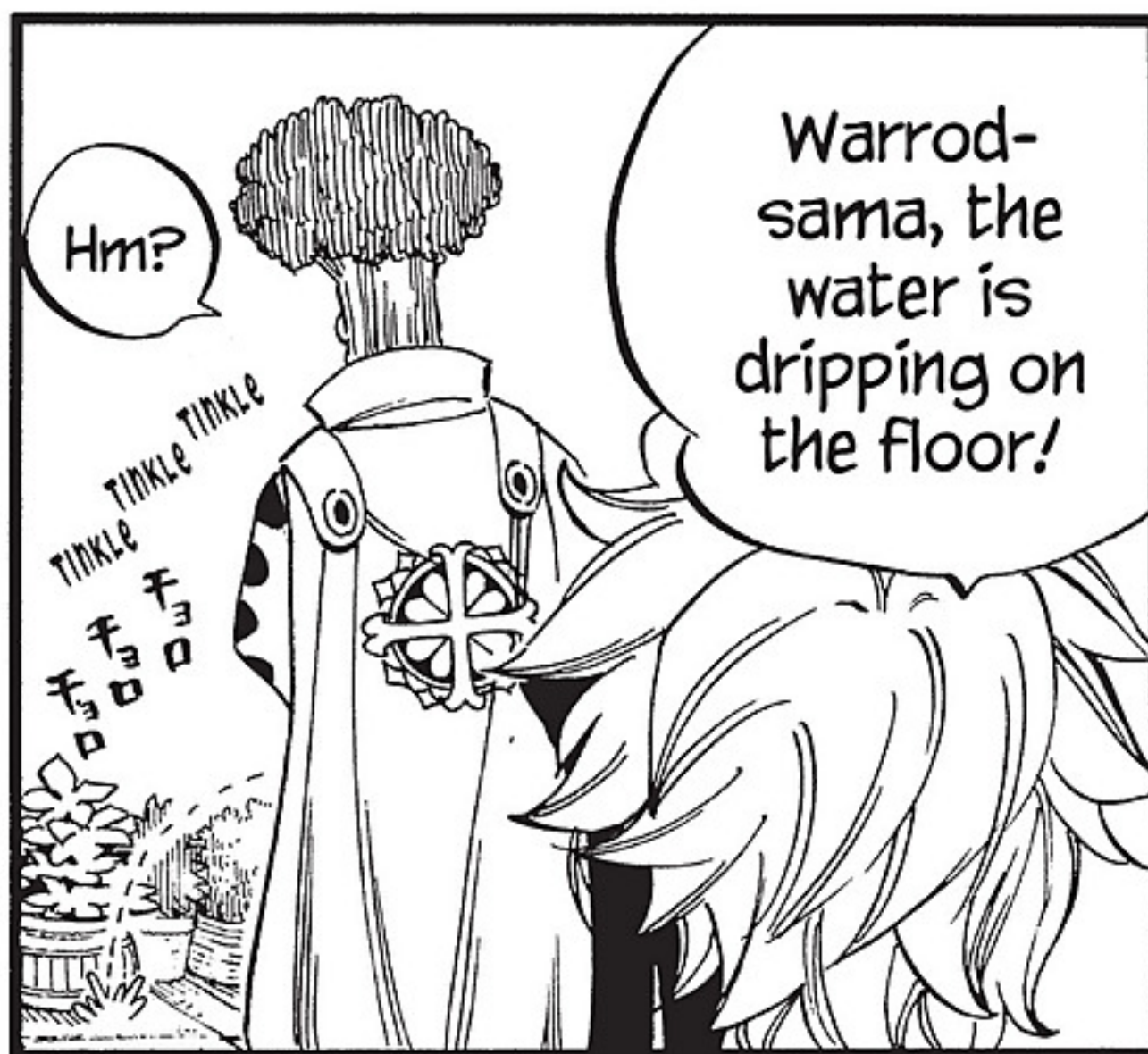
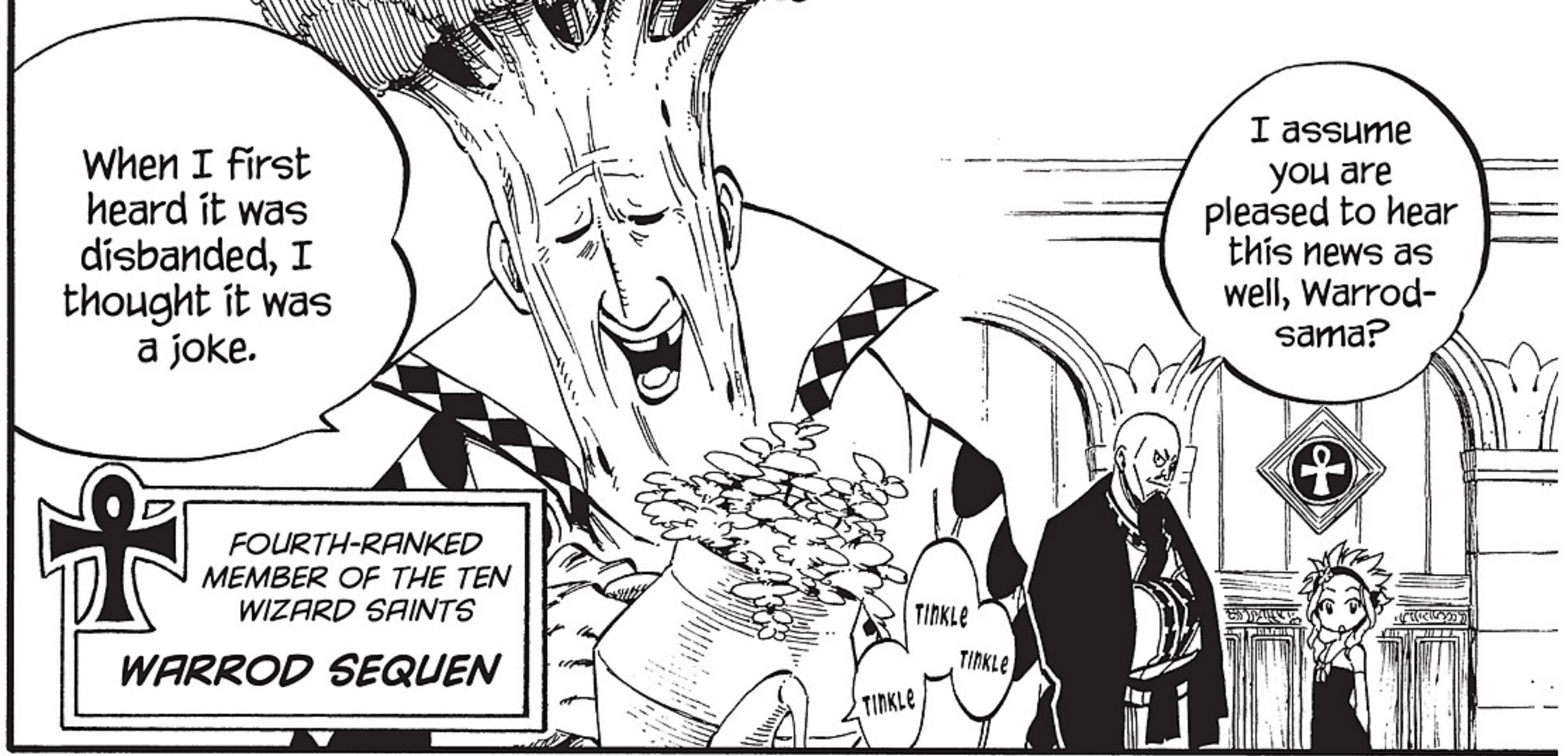
However, Levy-
dono, you are such
an efficient worker.
The Council will feel
the loss.

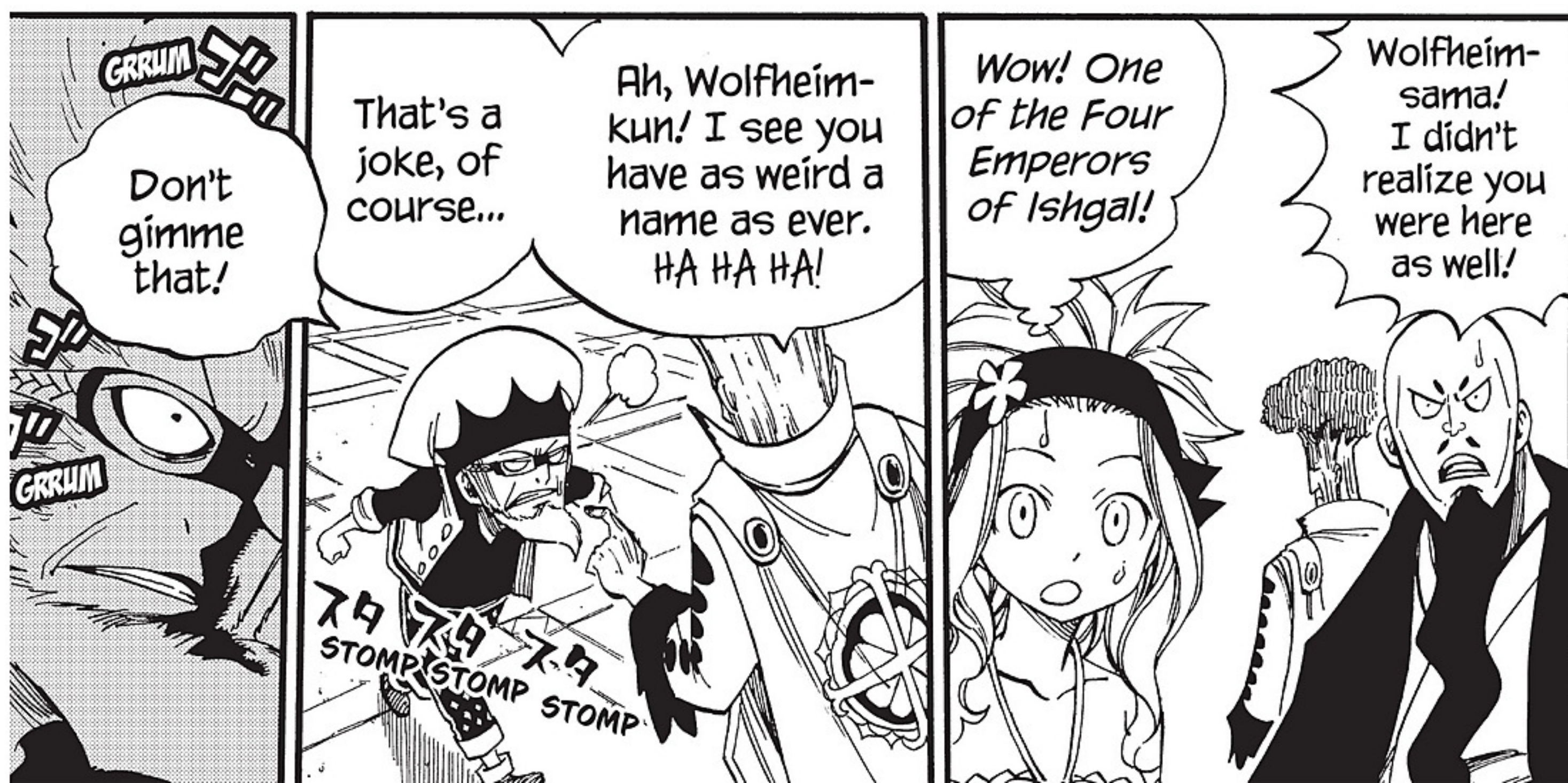
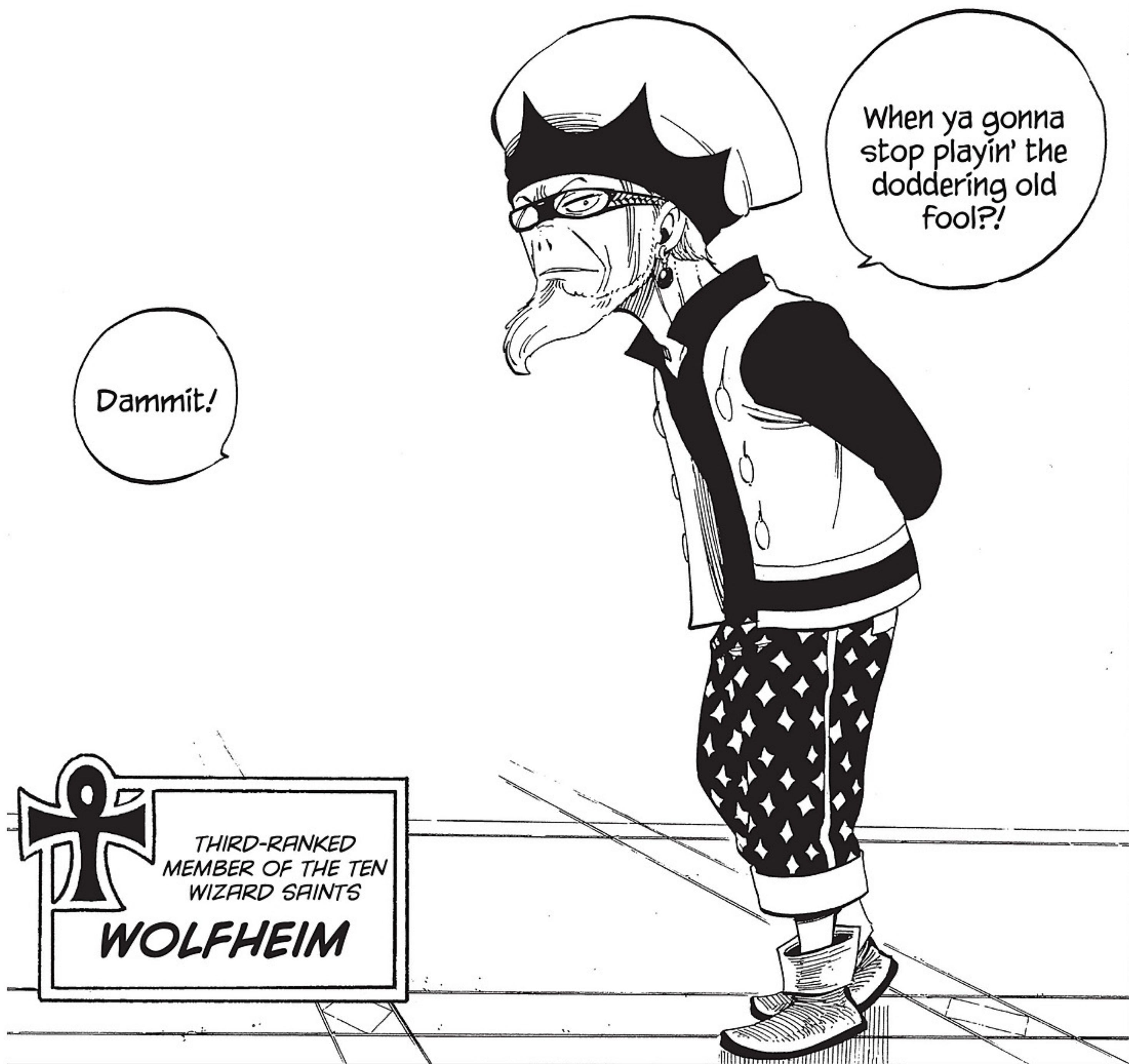
Heh
heh!
Sorry!

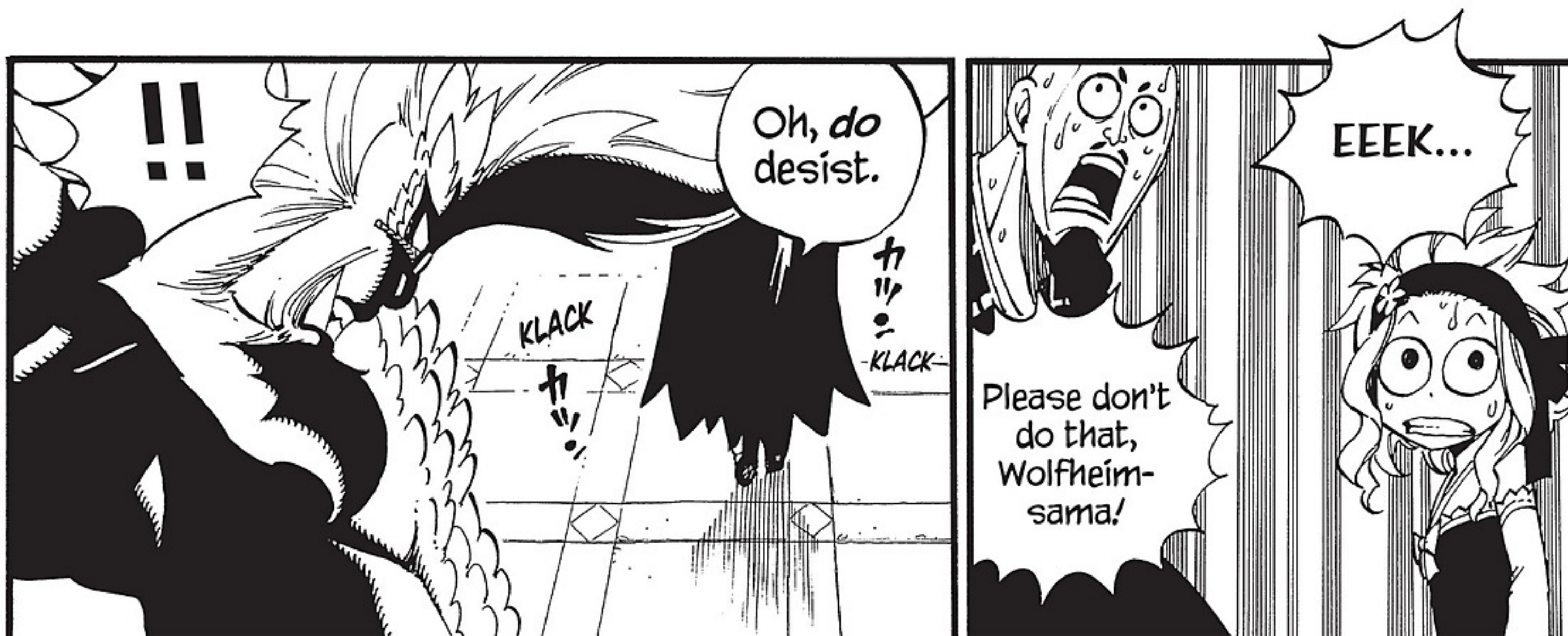


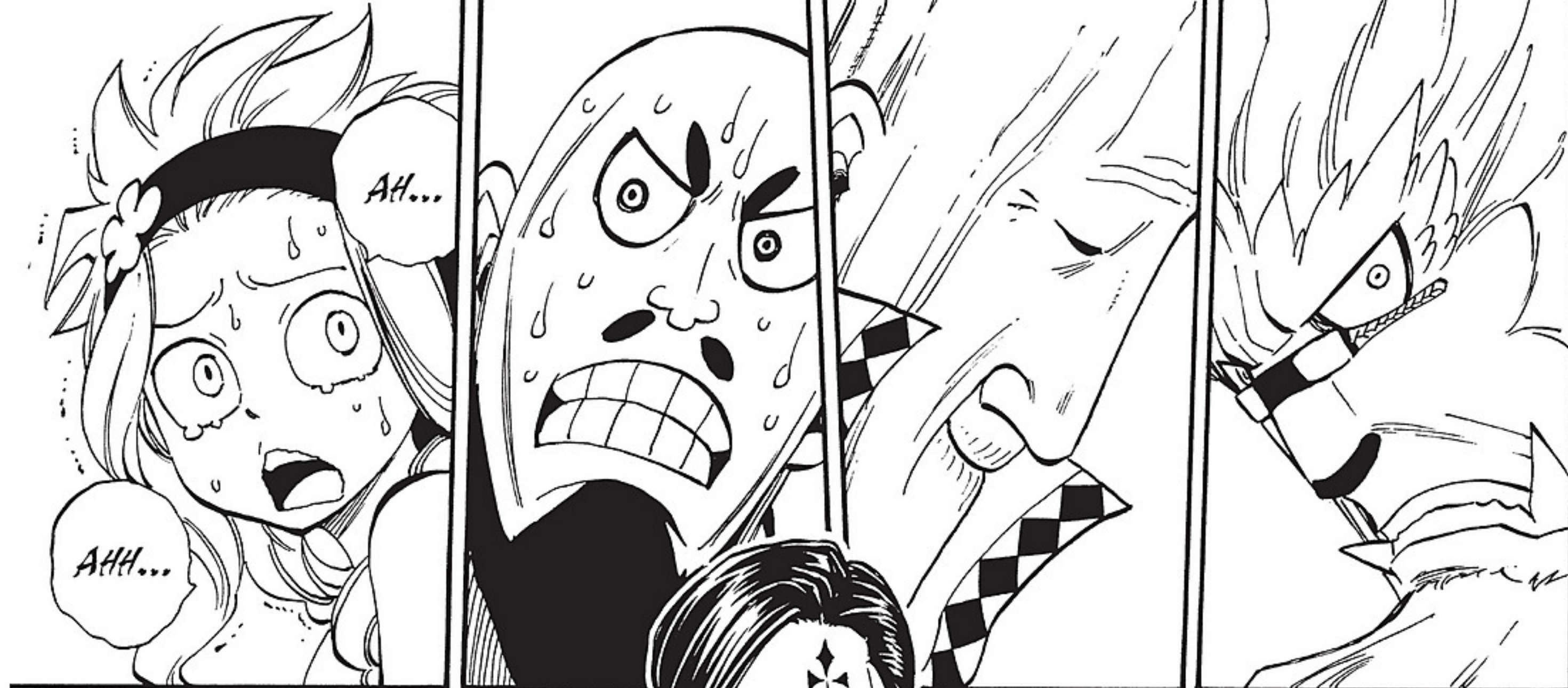
That makes
Fairy Tail's
revival
official,
right?

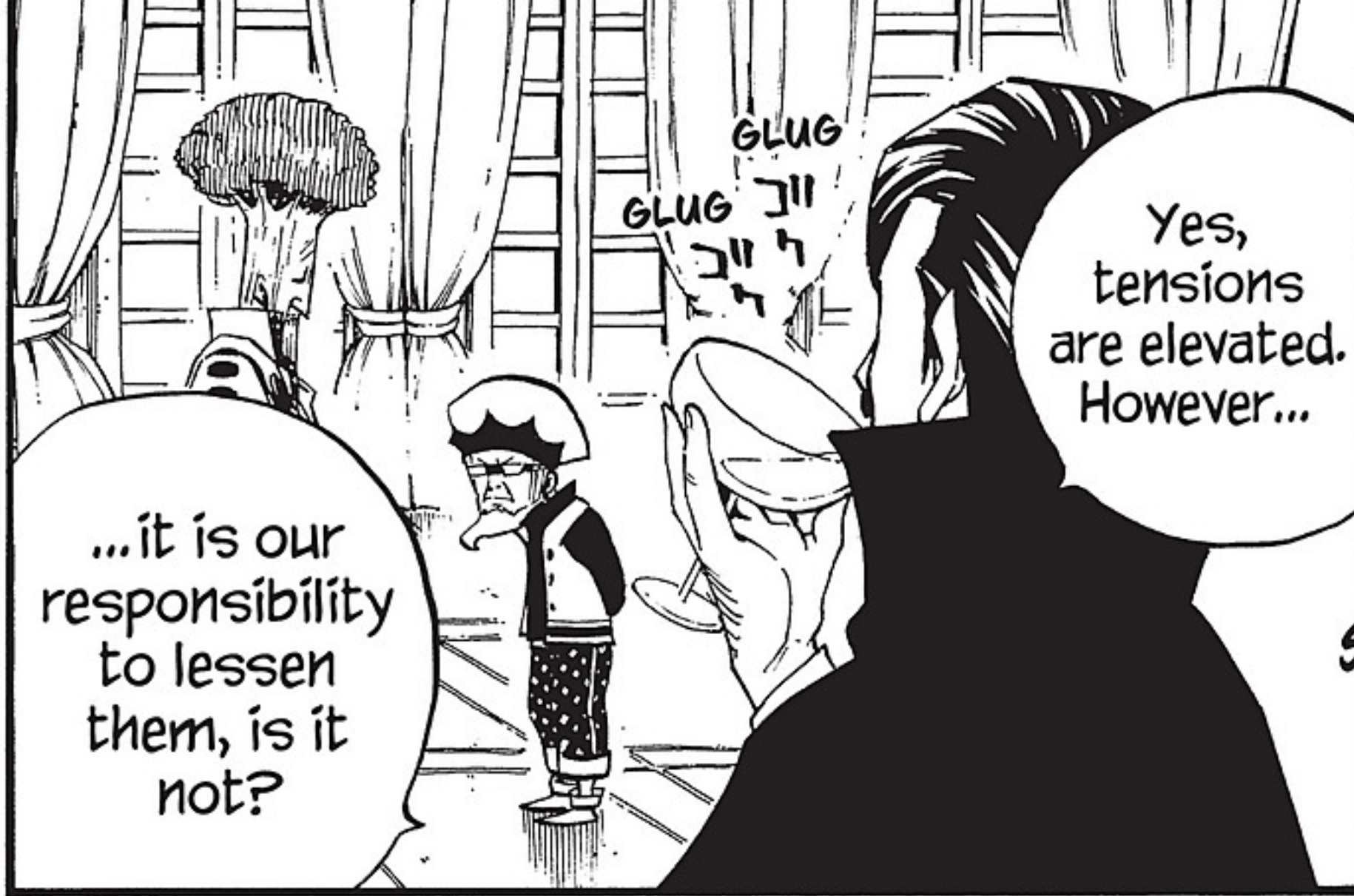
Hm! I
hope you
find Master
Makarov
soon.





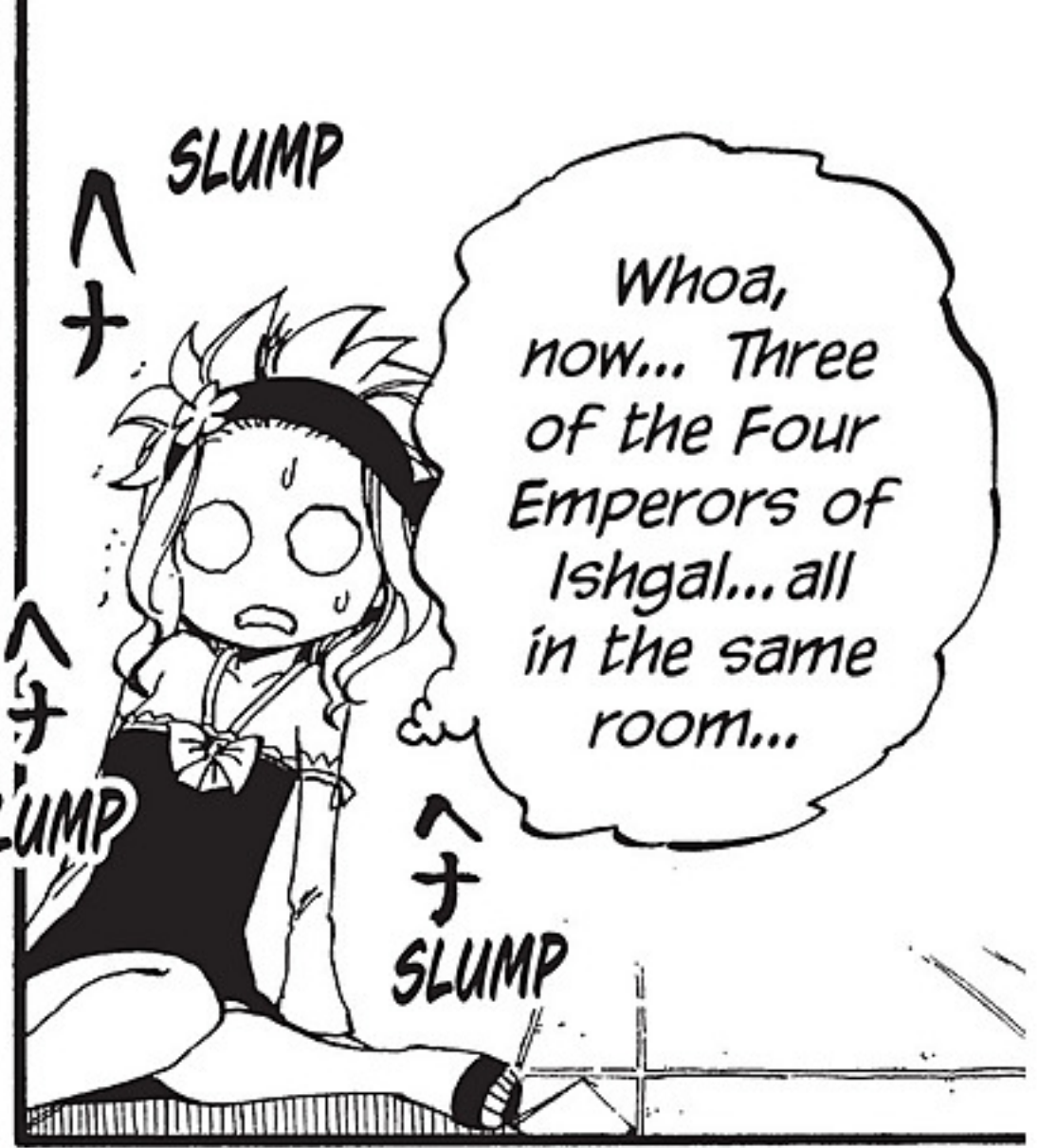






...it is our responsibility to lessen them, is it not?

Yes, tensions are elevated. However...

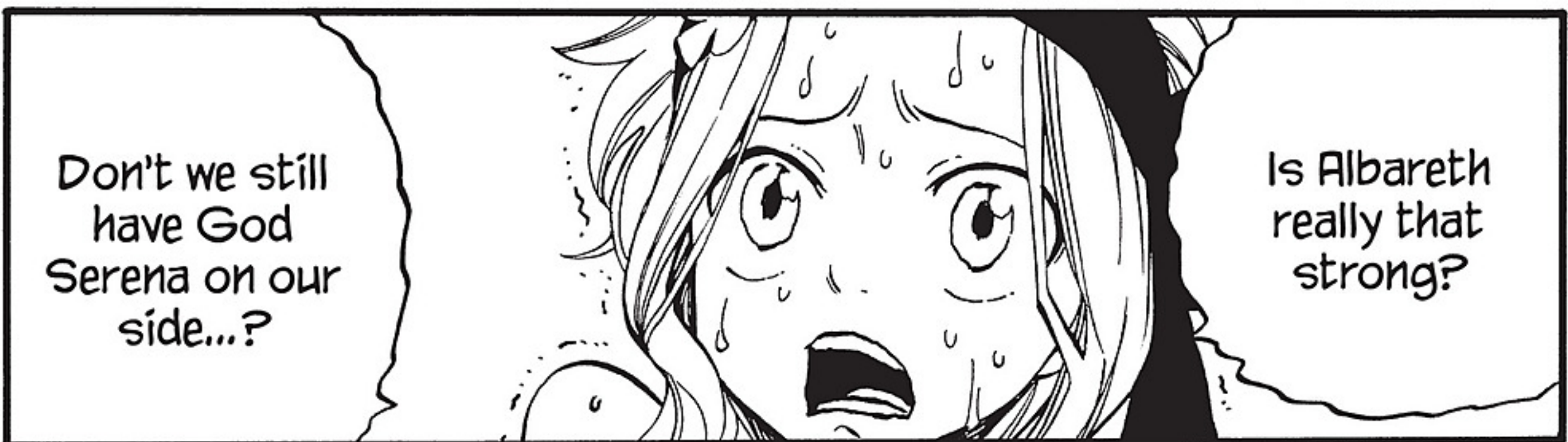


Whoa, now... Three of the Four Emperors of Ishgal... all in the same room...



Thus, we must tread the diplomatic path with peace accords! It is up to us.

If it descends into armed conflict, we have no hope of prevailing...



Don't we still have God Serena on our side...?

Is Albareth really that strong?



God Serena...

Ah, he who was once a fellow member of the Four Emperors of Ishgal...he was designated the top-ranked Wizard Saint, a title saved for the greatest wizard on the continent...

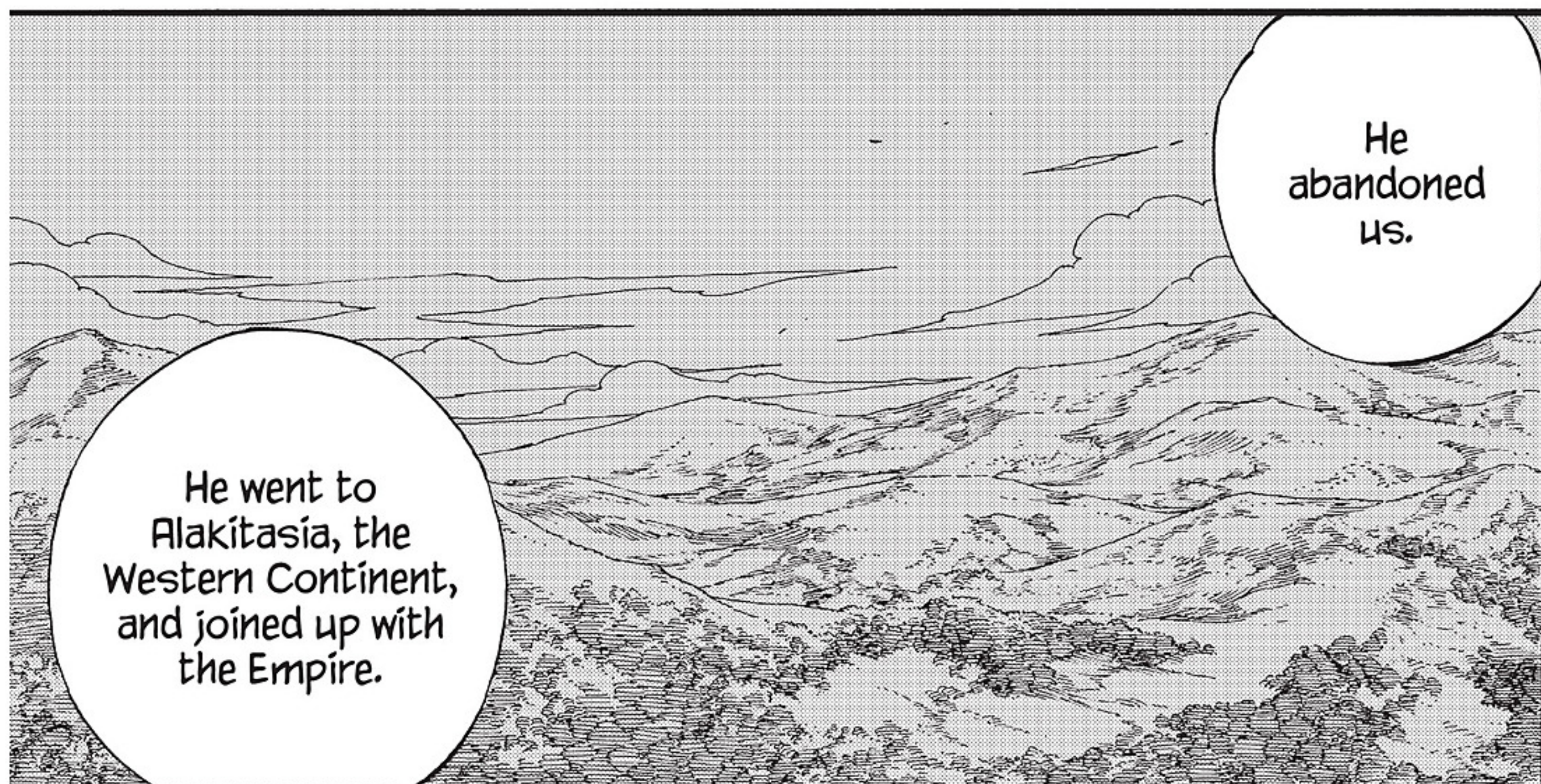


Could it be that he has become physically unable...

What's wrong? Why did everyone suddenly go quiet?



Why, may I ask, did God Serena not join the Council?



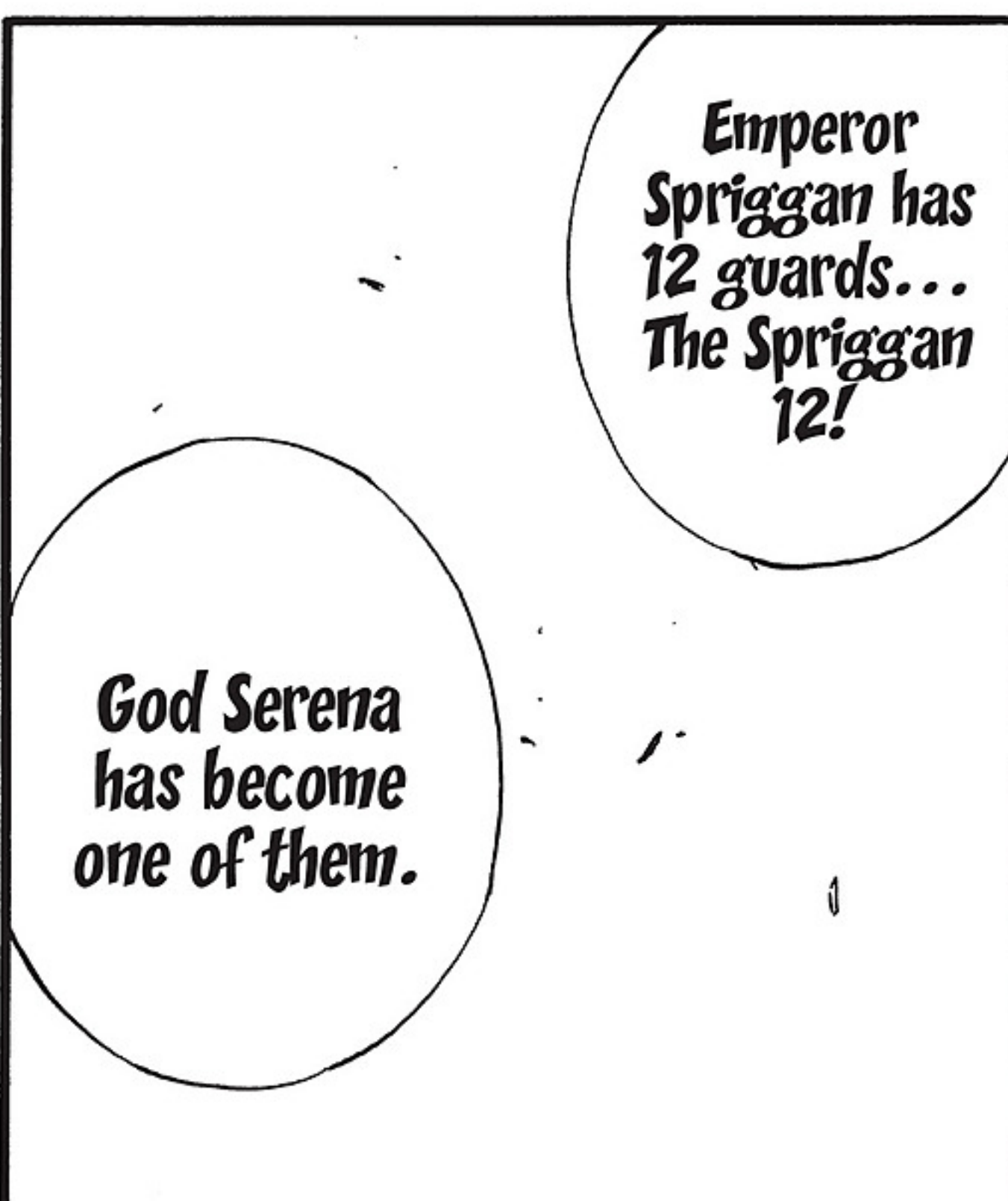
He abandoned us.

He went to Alakitasia, the Western Continent, and joined up with the Empire.



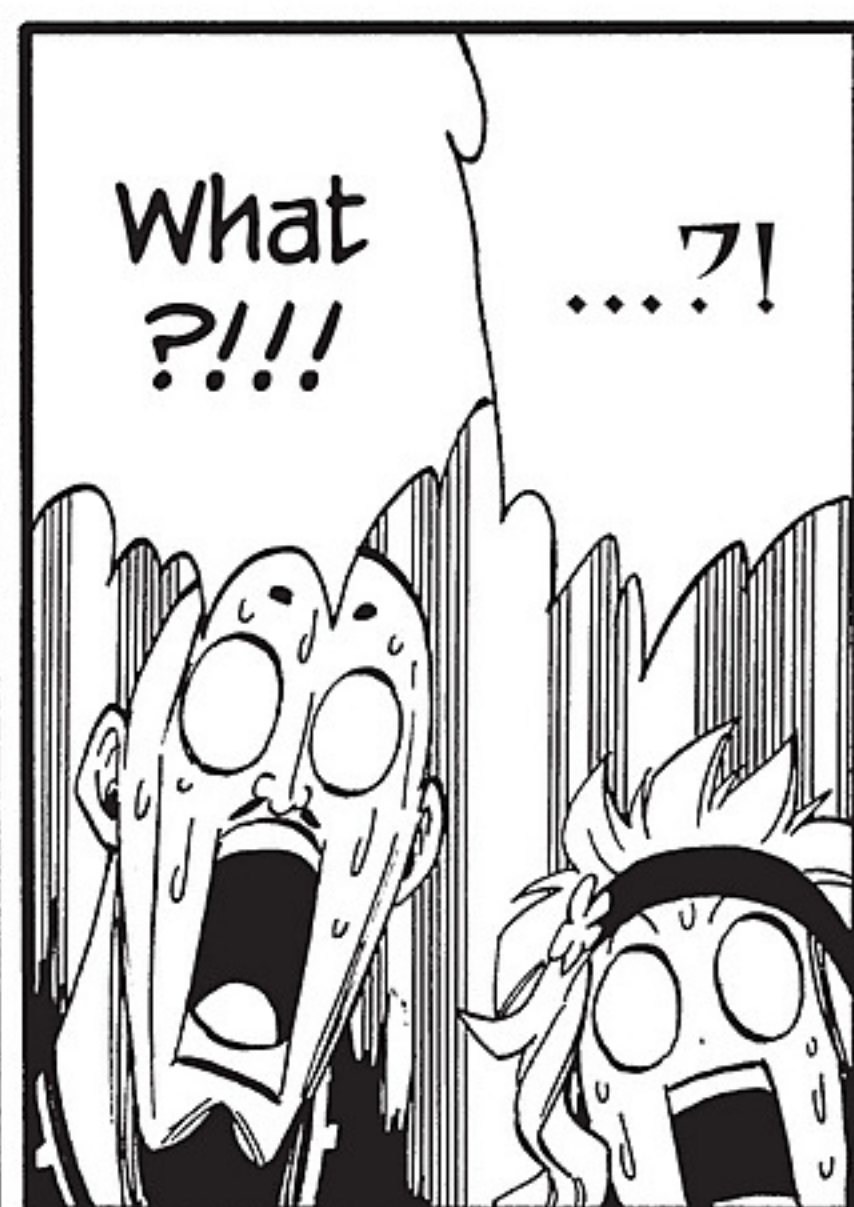
Huh ...?!

12... guards...



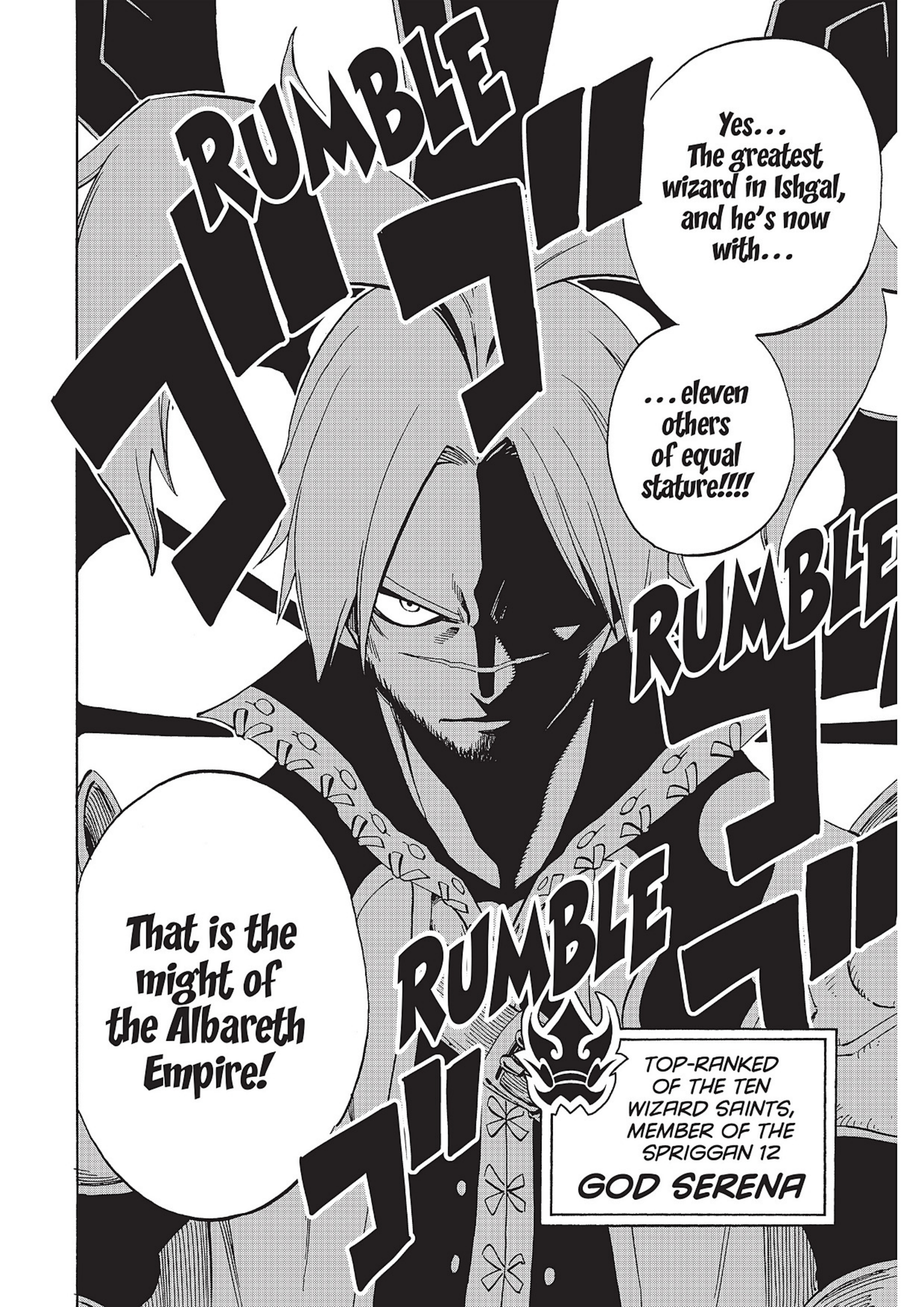
Emperor Spriggan has 12 guards...
The Spriggan 12!

God Serena has become one of them.



What ?!!!

...?!?



Yes...
The greatest
wizard in Ishgal,
and he's now
with...

...eleven
others
of equal
stature!!!!

That is the
might of
the Albareth
Empire!

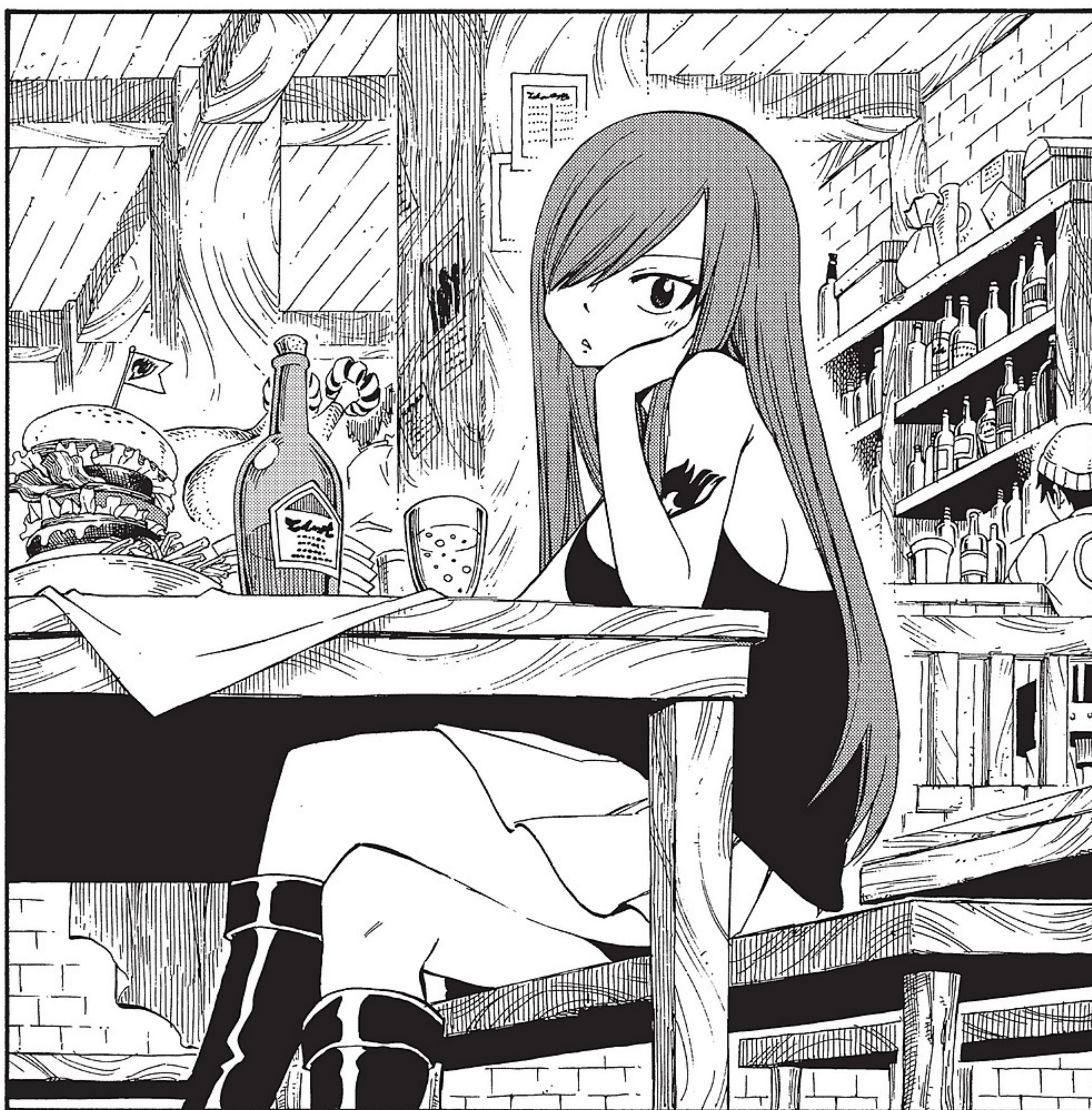
TOP-RANKED
OF THE TEN
WIZARD SAINTS,
MEMBER OF THE
SPRIGGAN 12

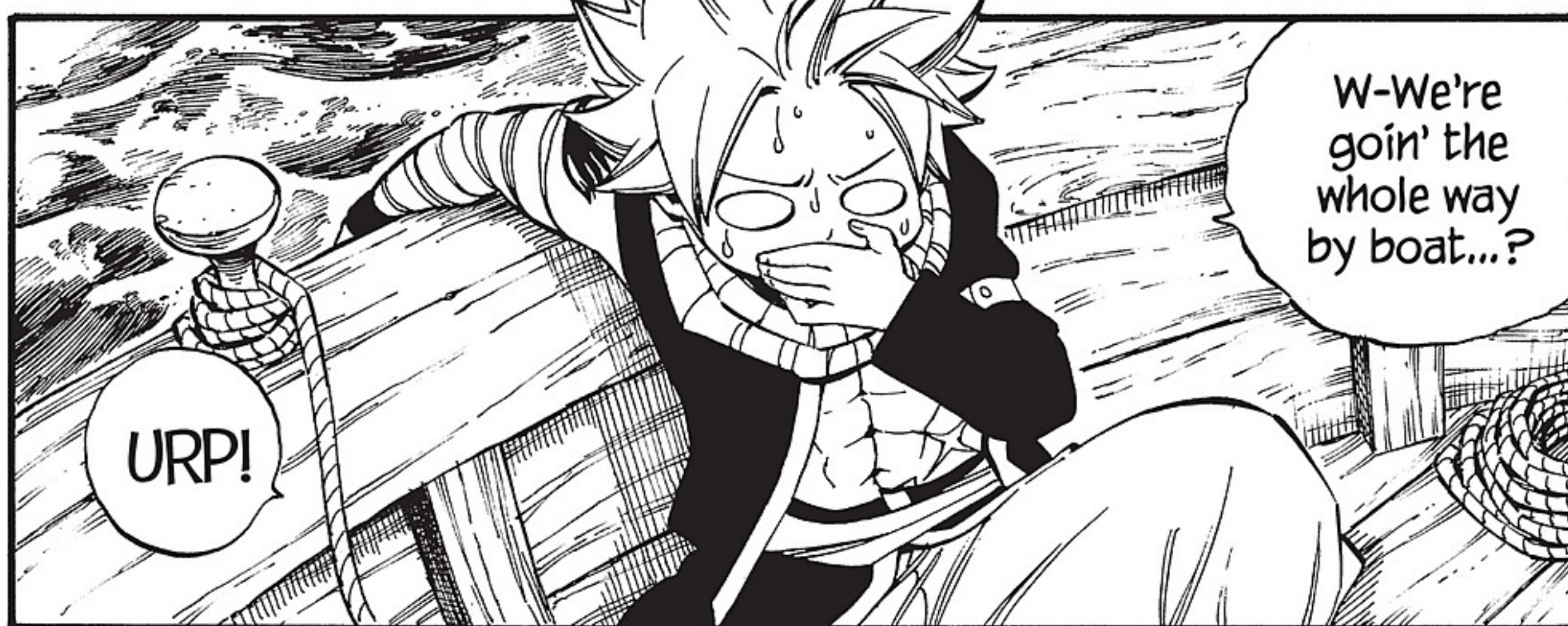
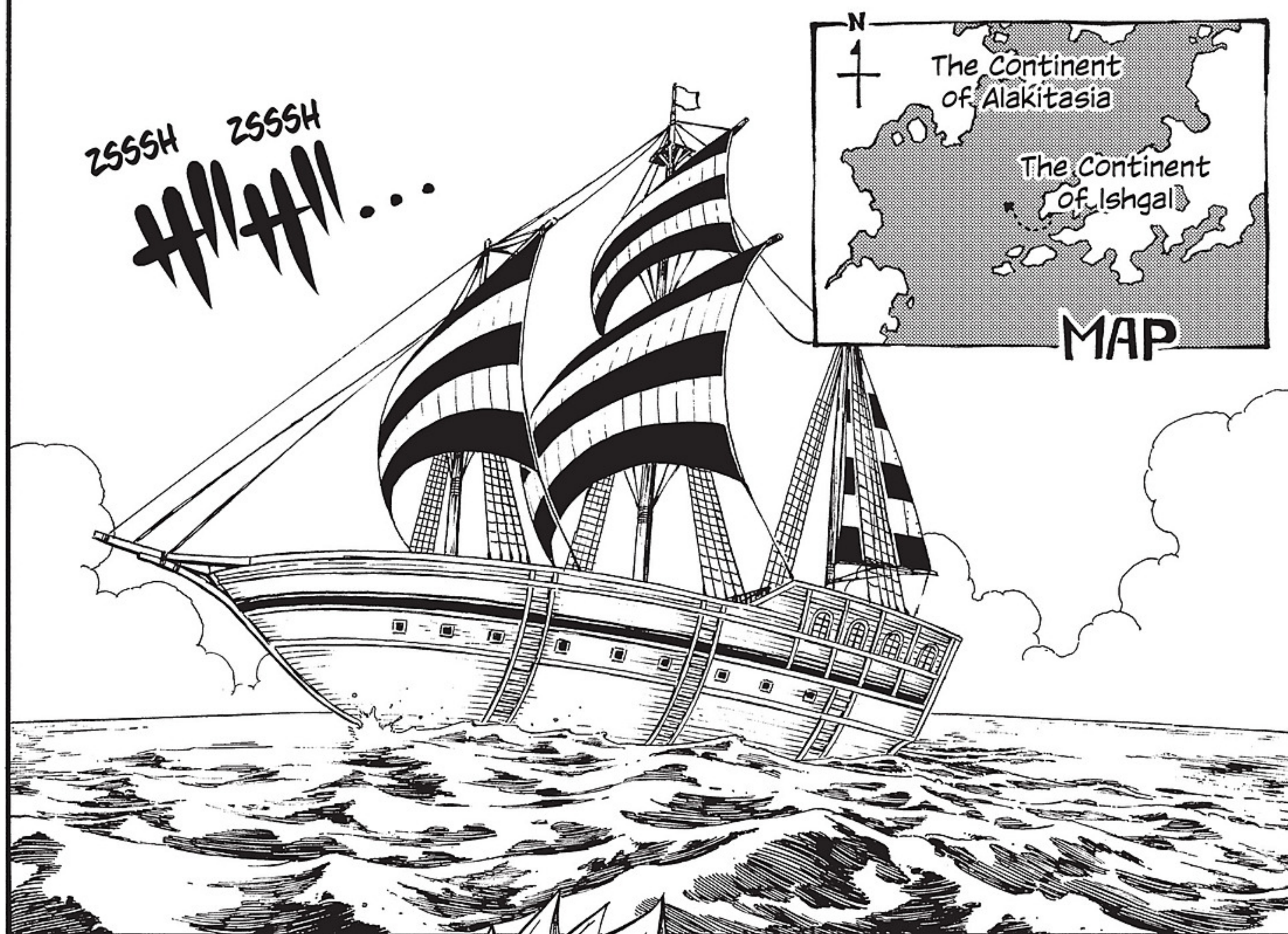
GOD SERENA

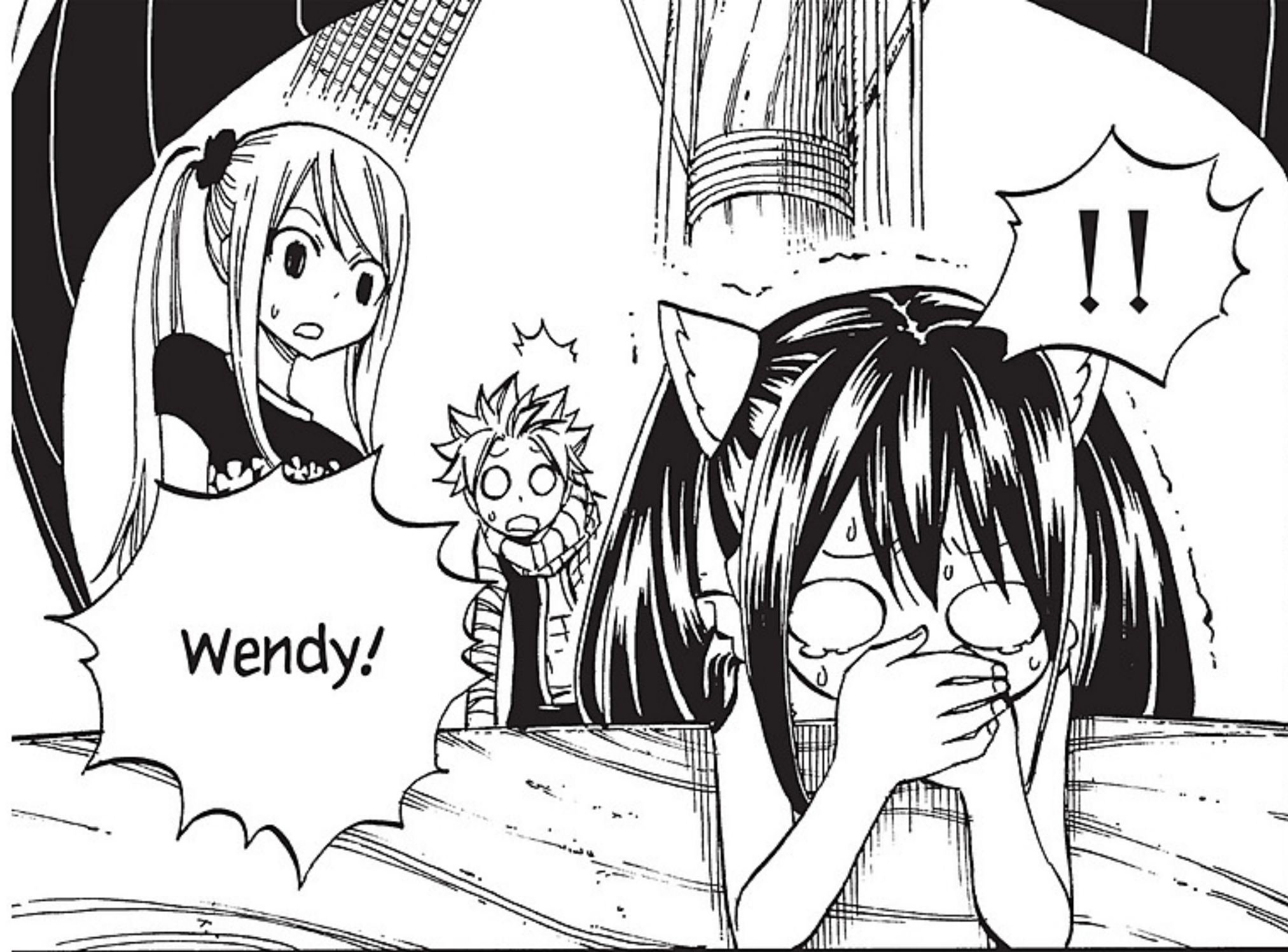
FAIRY TAIL

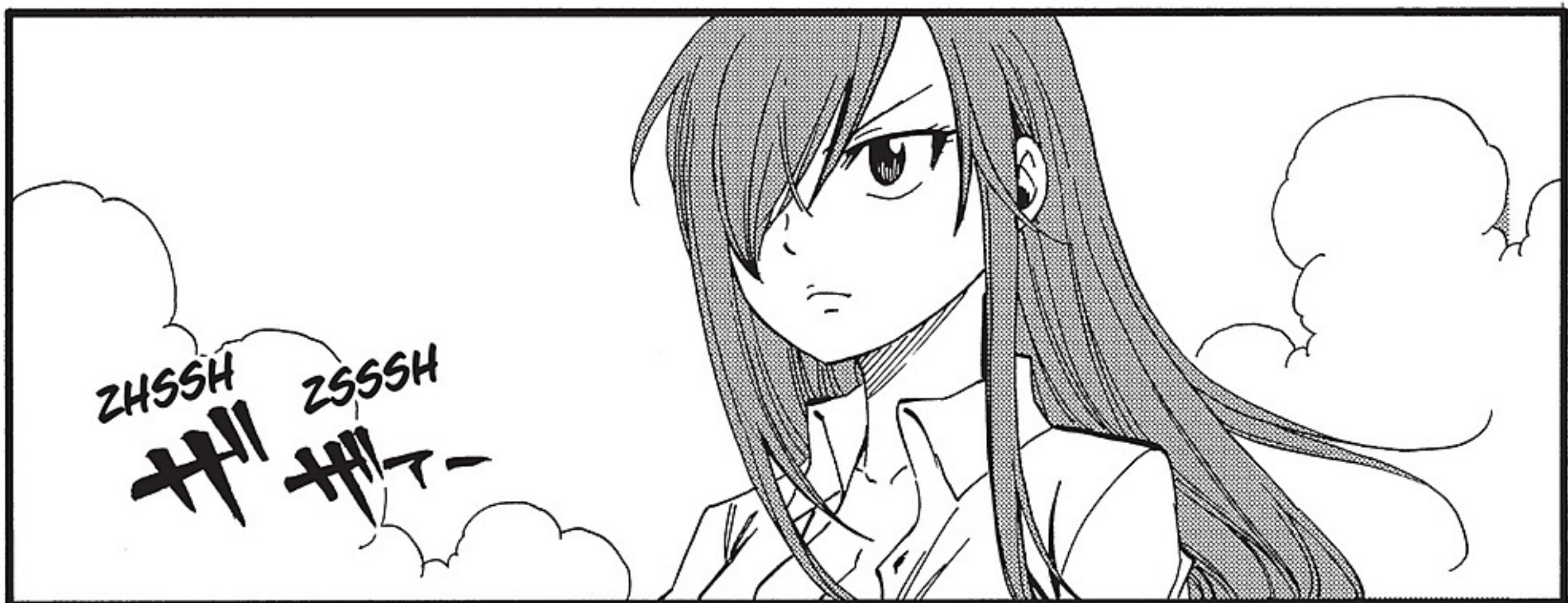
フェアリーテイル

Chapter 441: Caracol Island

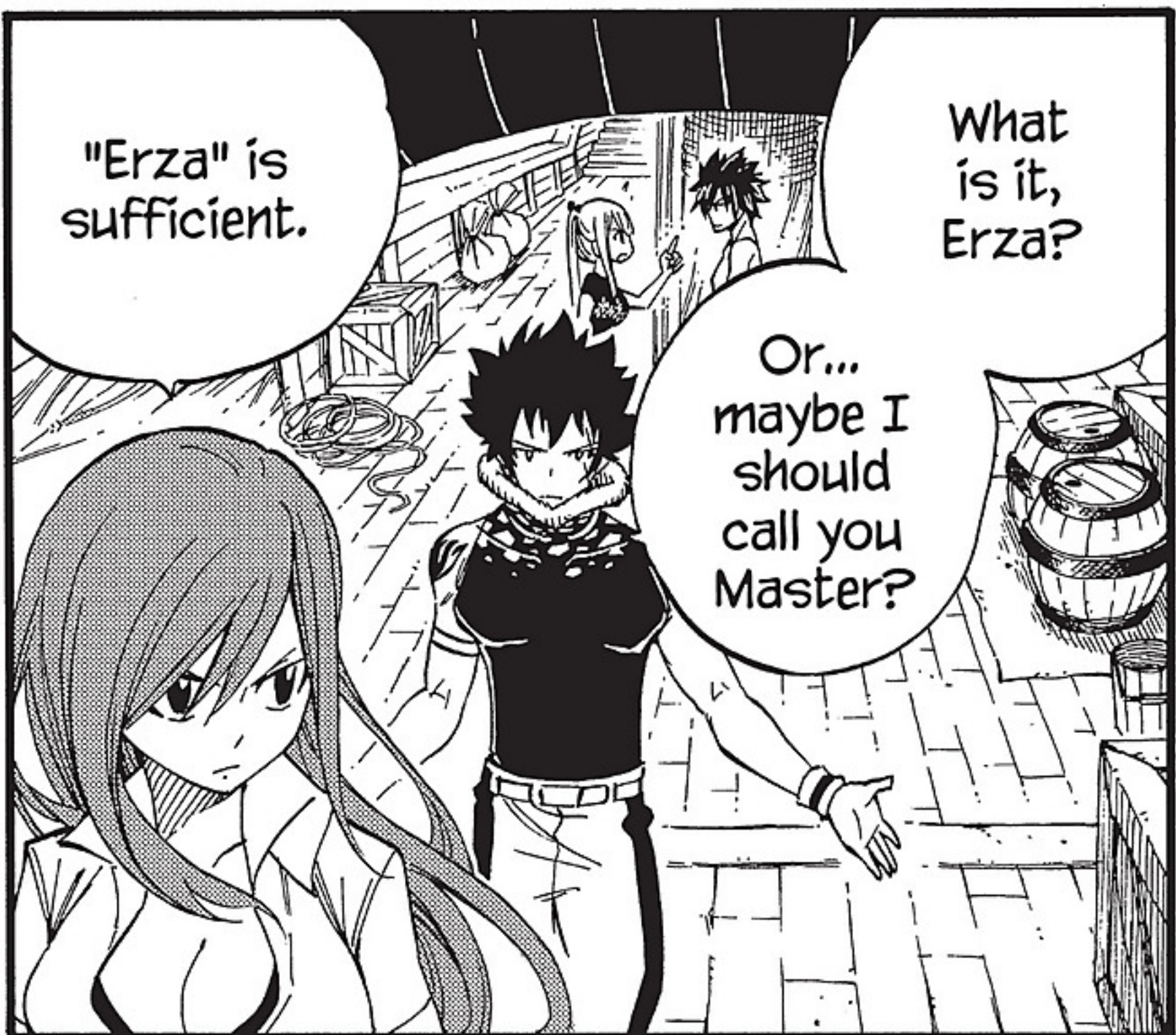








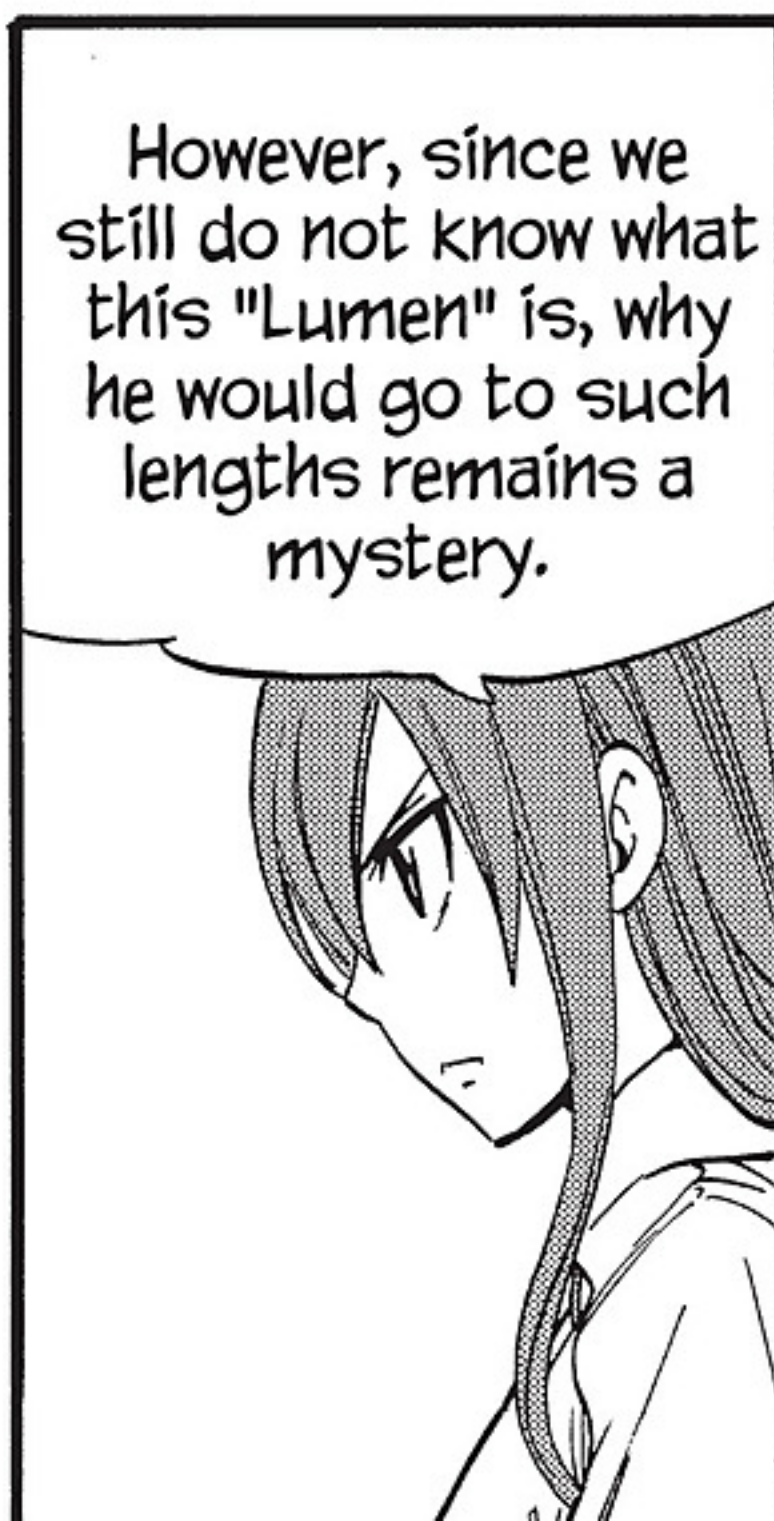
Makarov was willing to disband the guild in order to protect us.



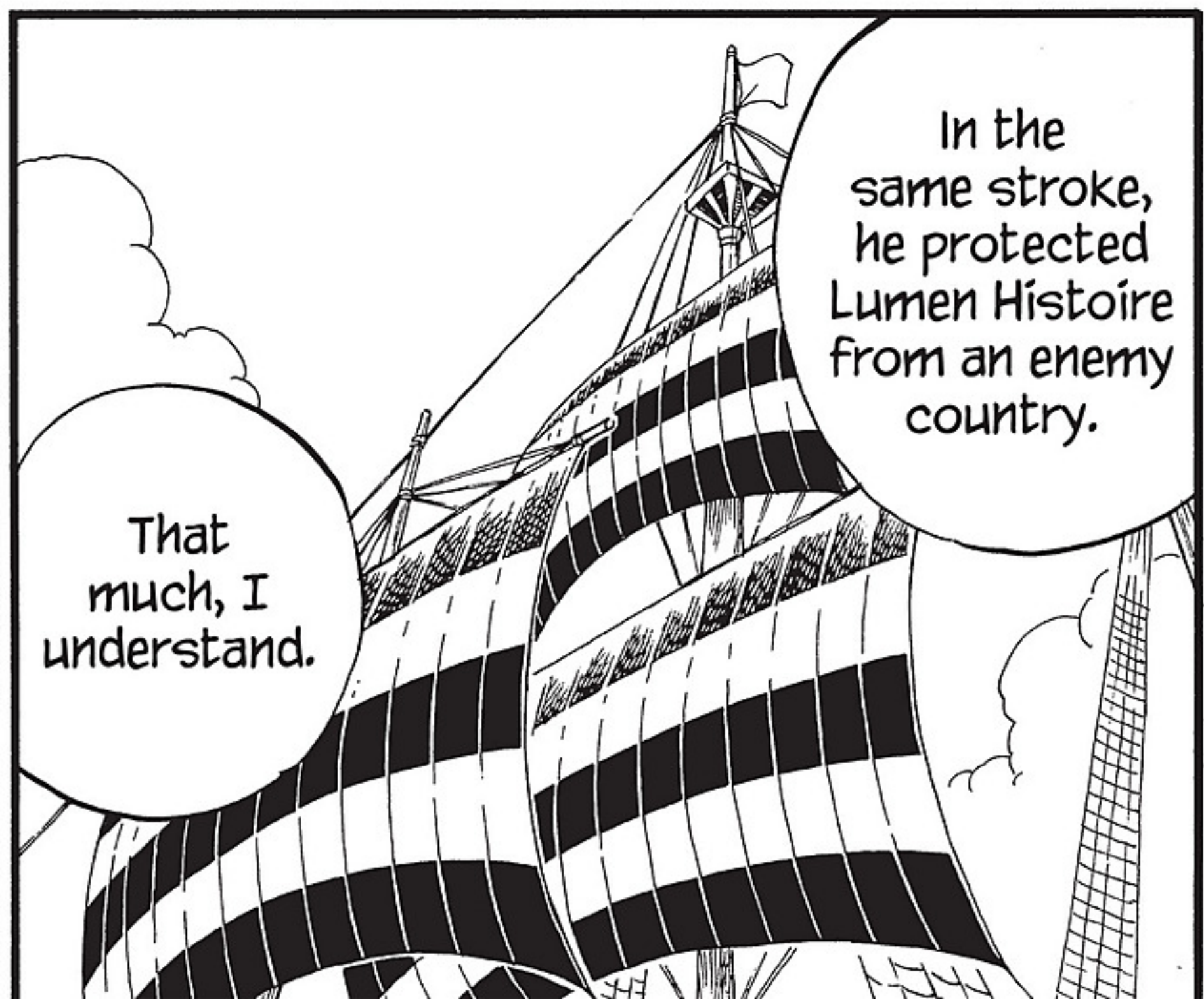
"Erza" is sufficient.

What is it, Erza?

Or... maybe I should call you Master?

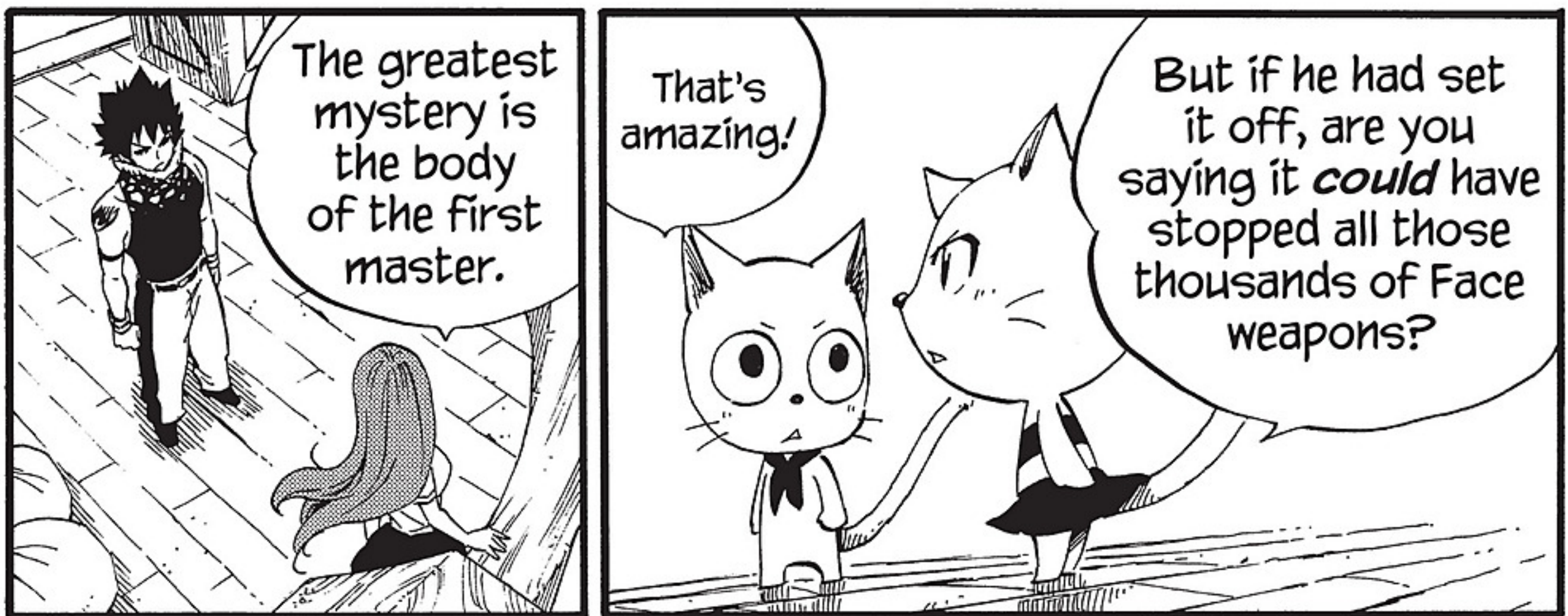
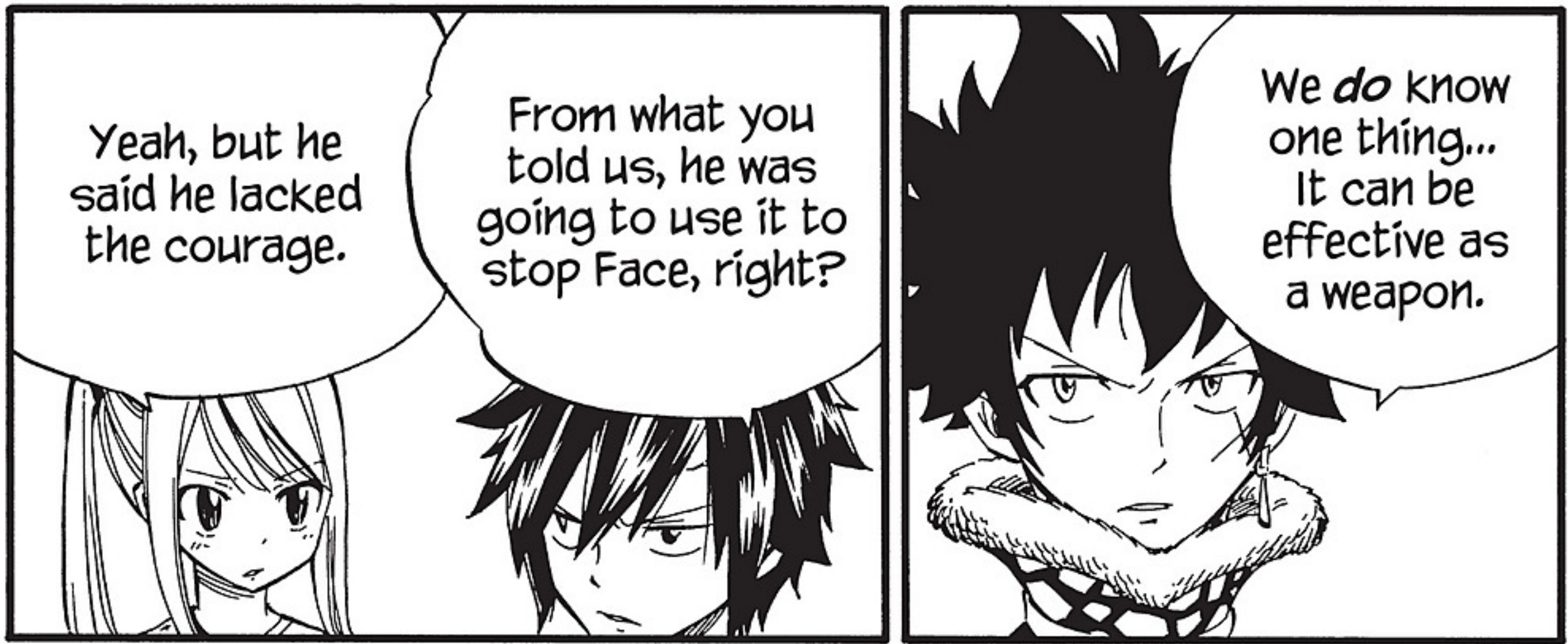


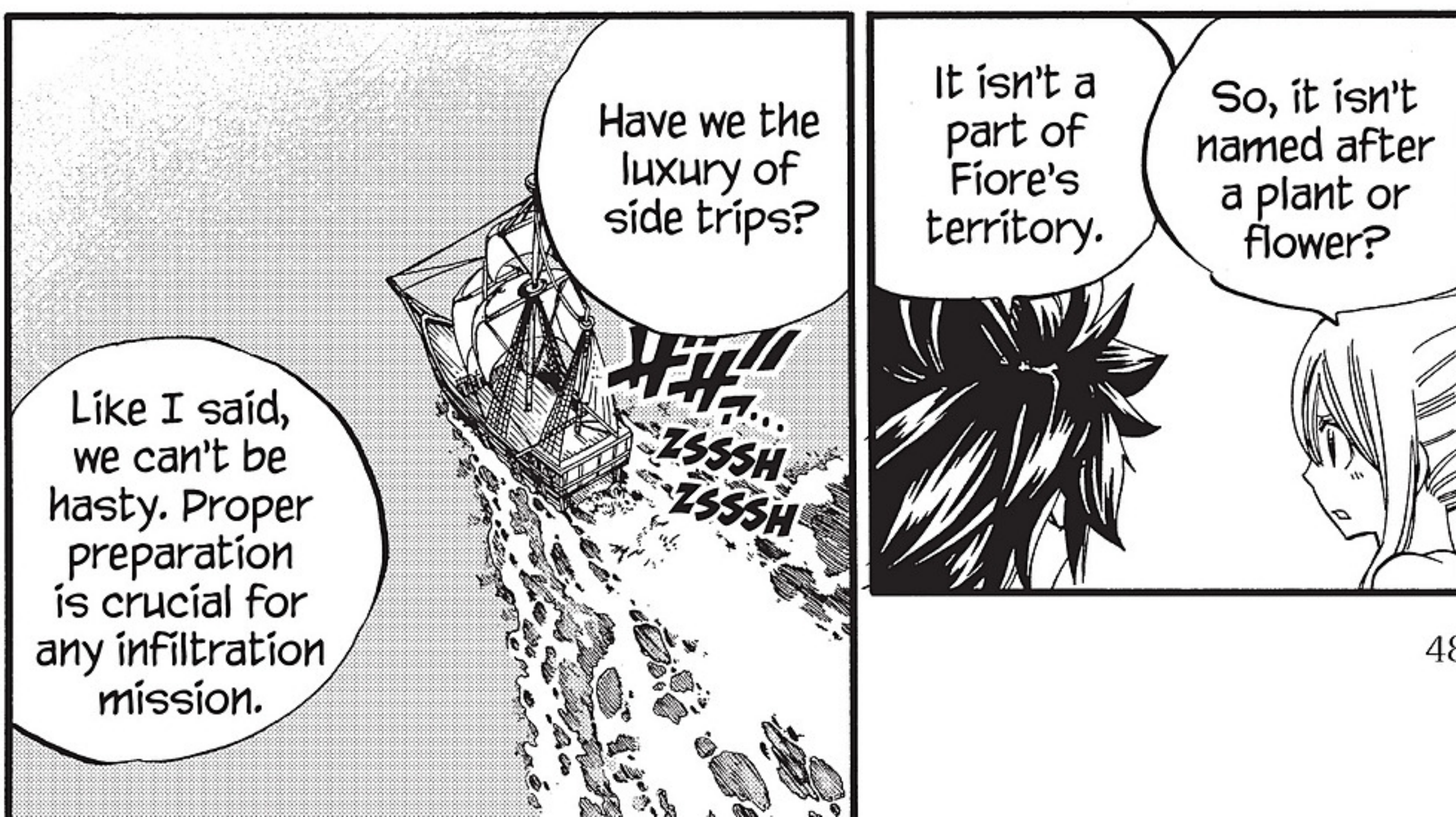
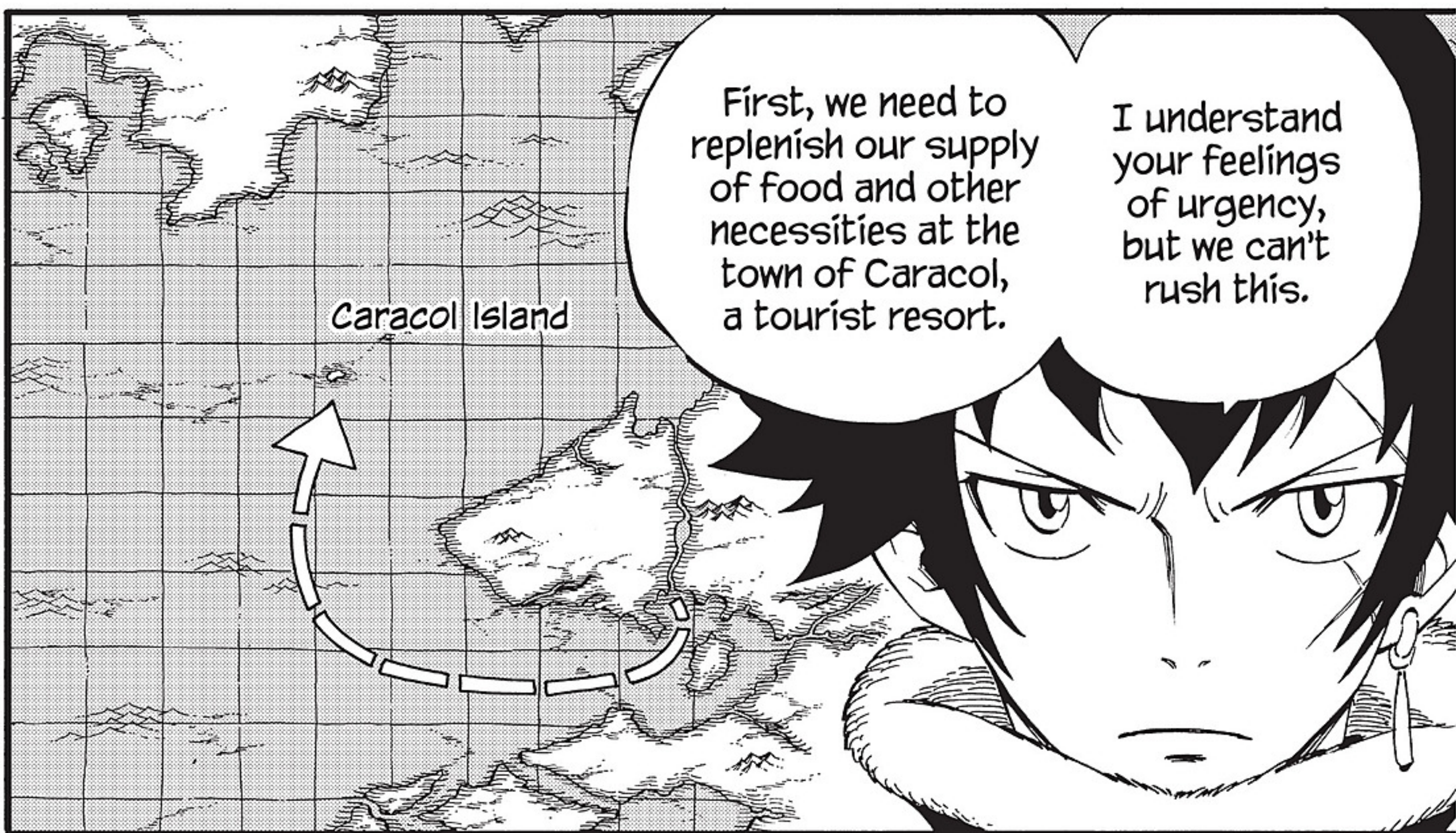
However, since we still do not know what this "Lumen" is, why he would go to such lengths remains a mystery.

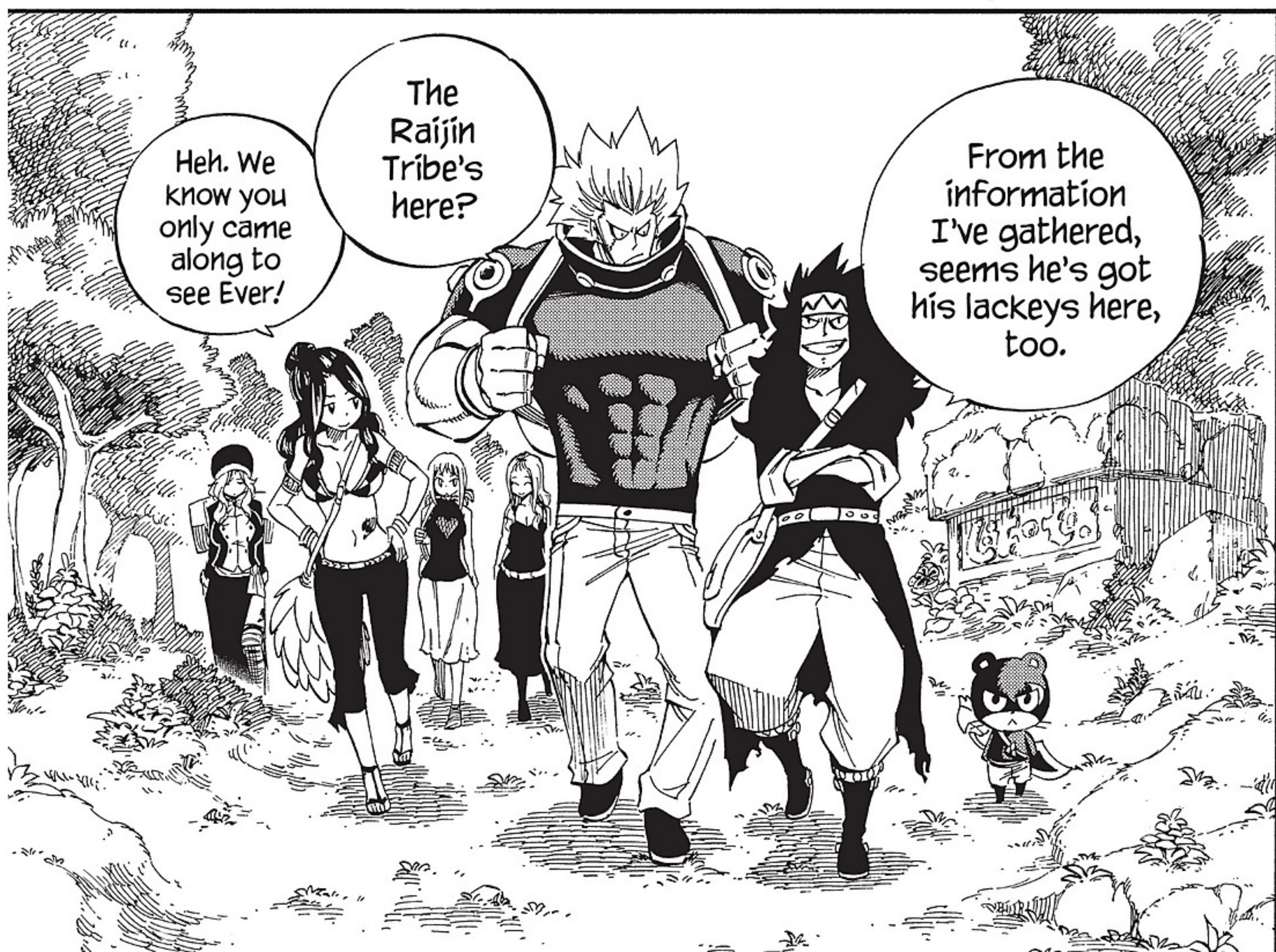
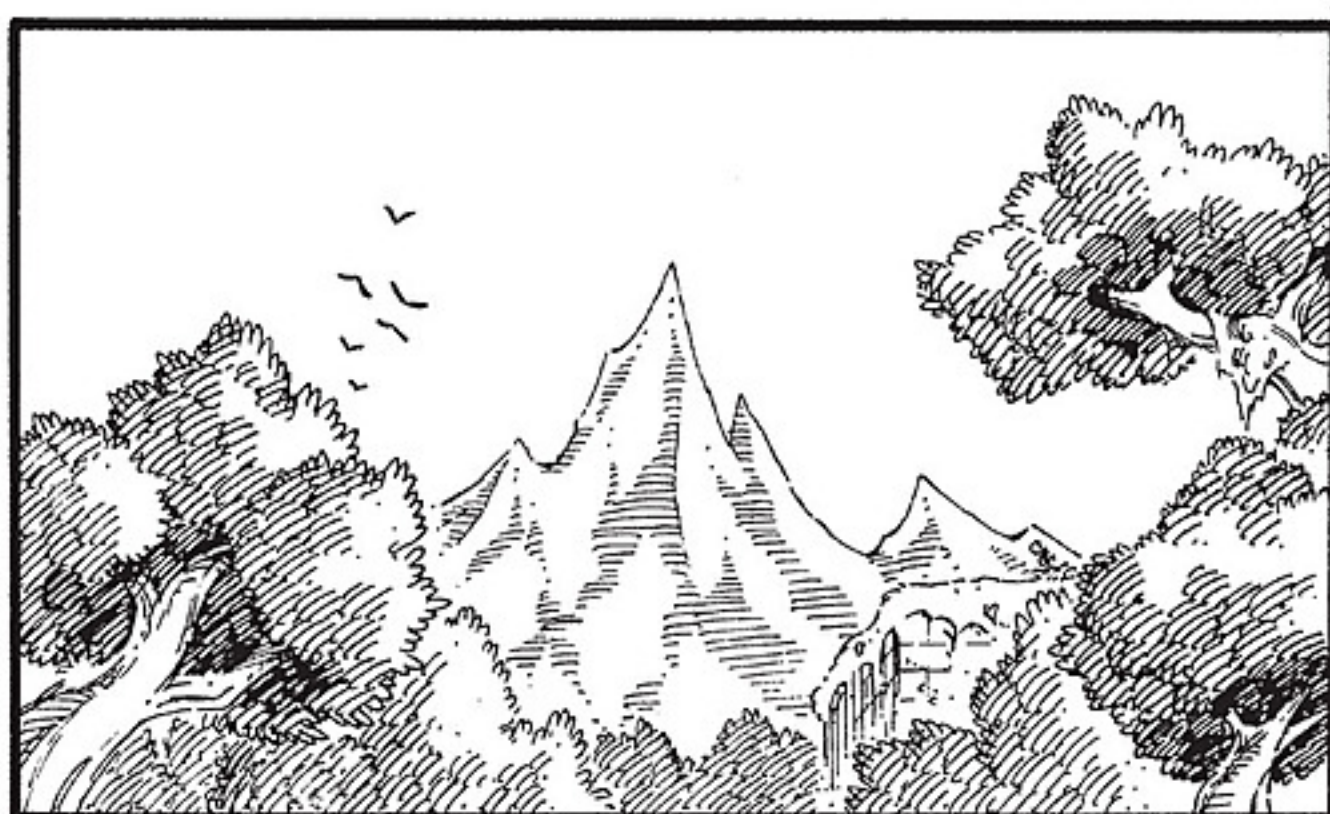
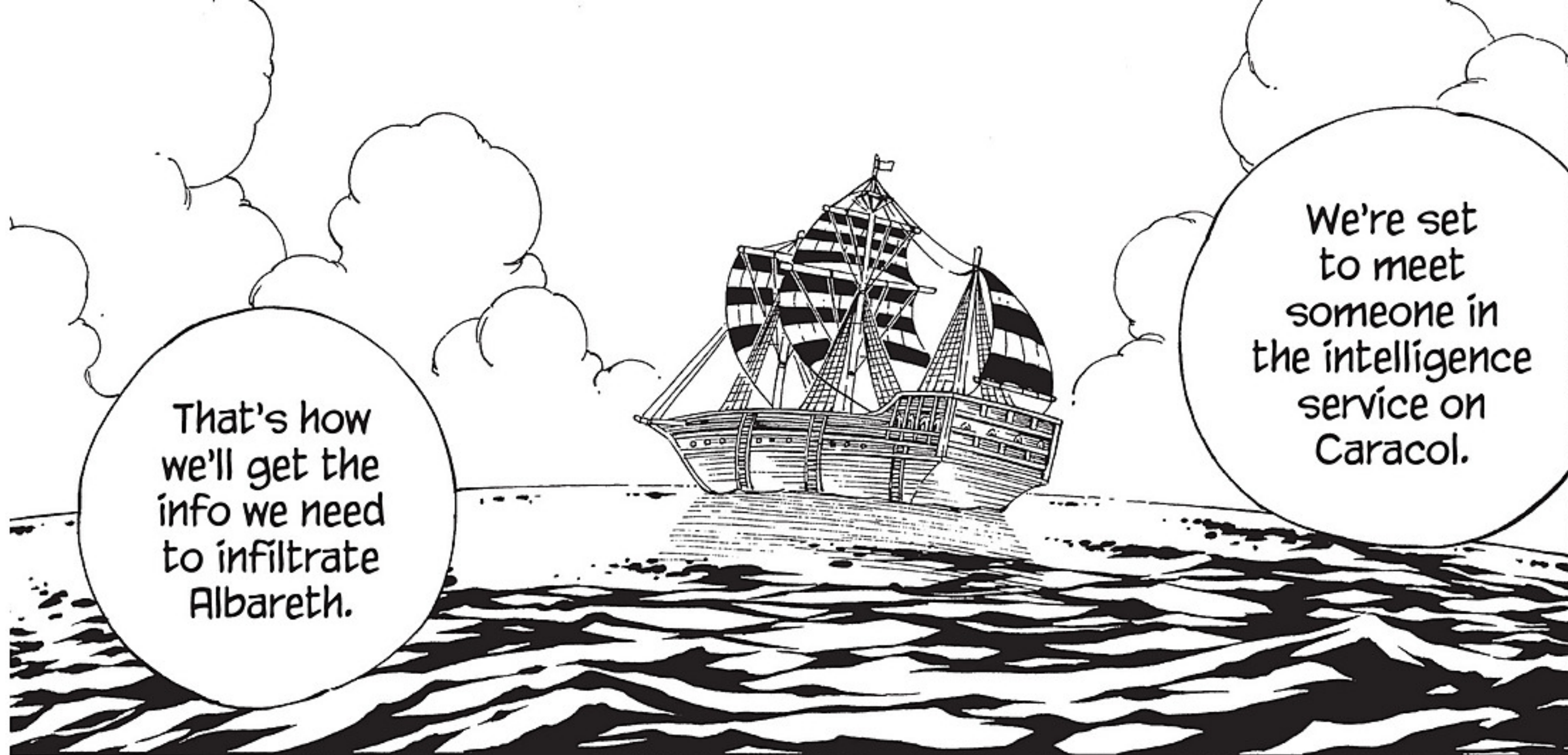


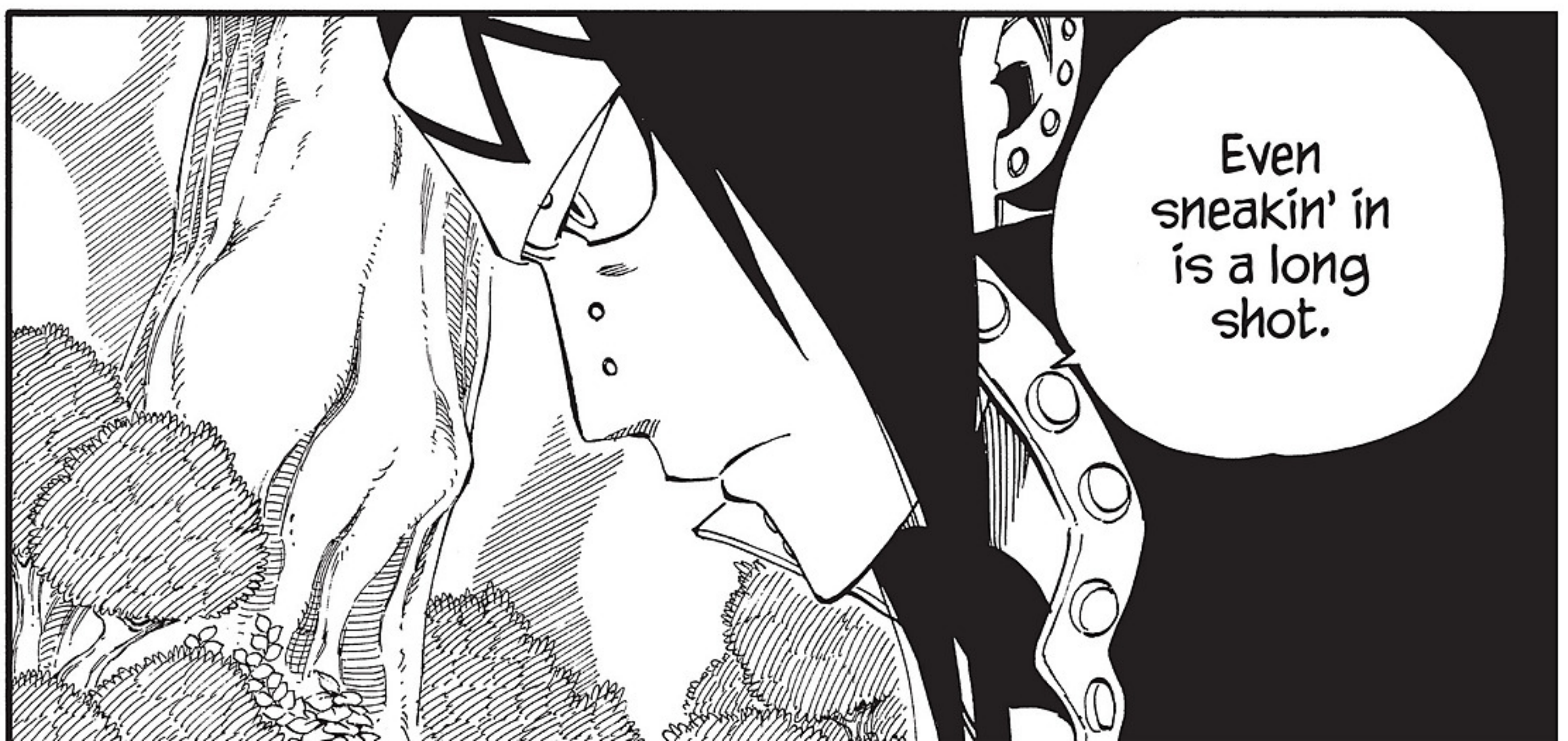
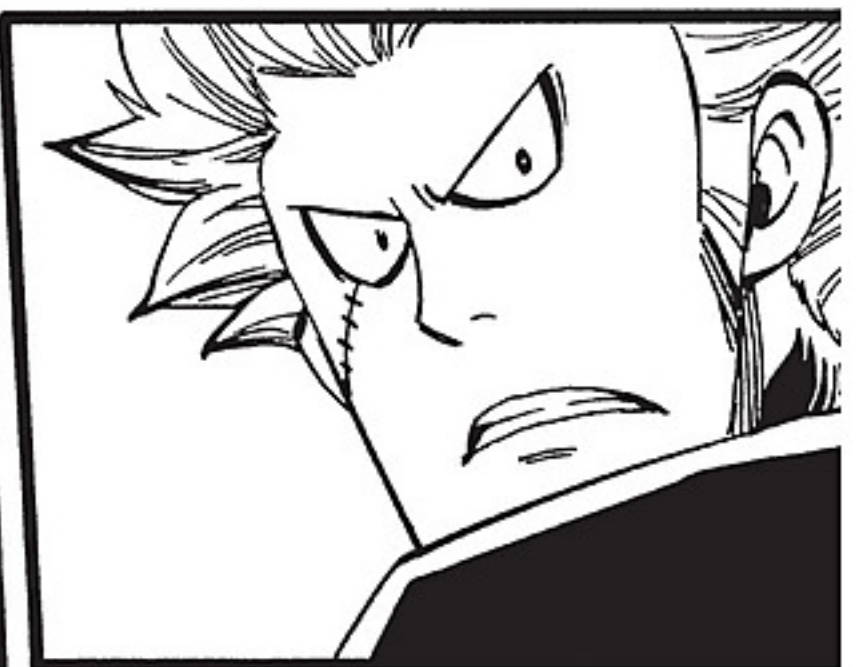
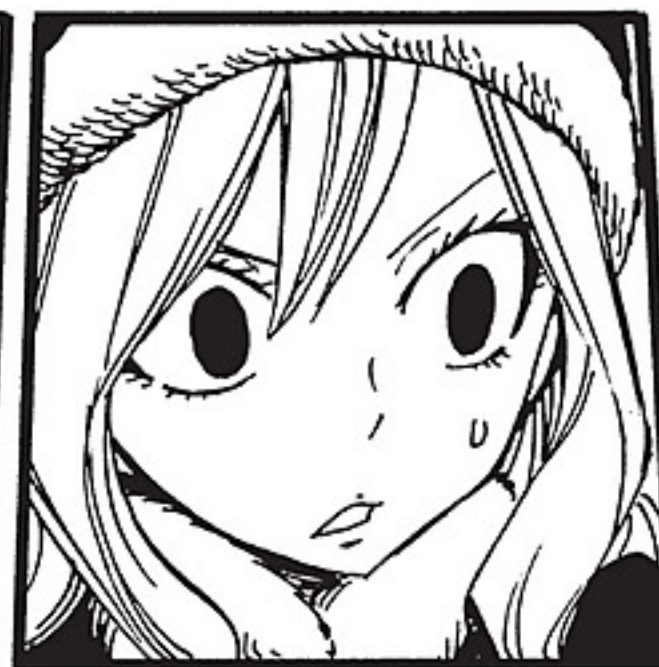
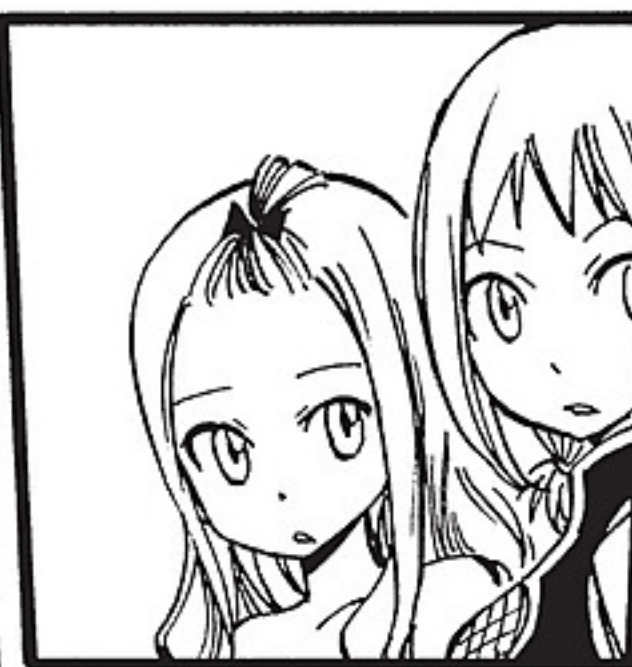
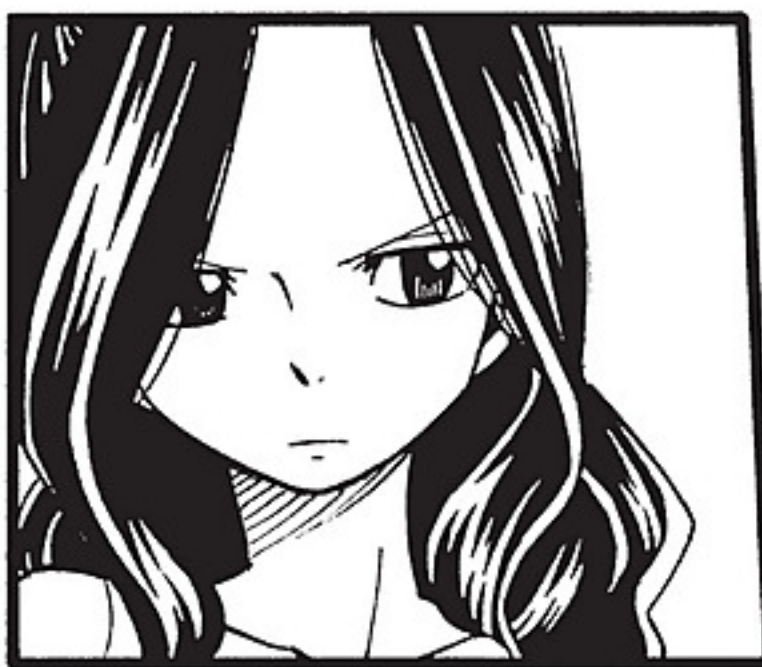
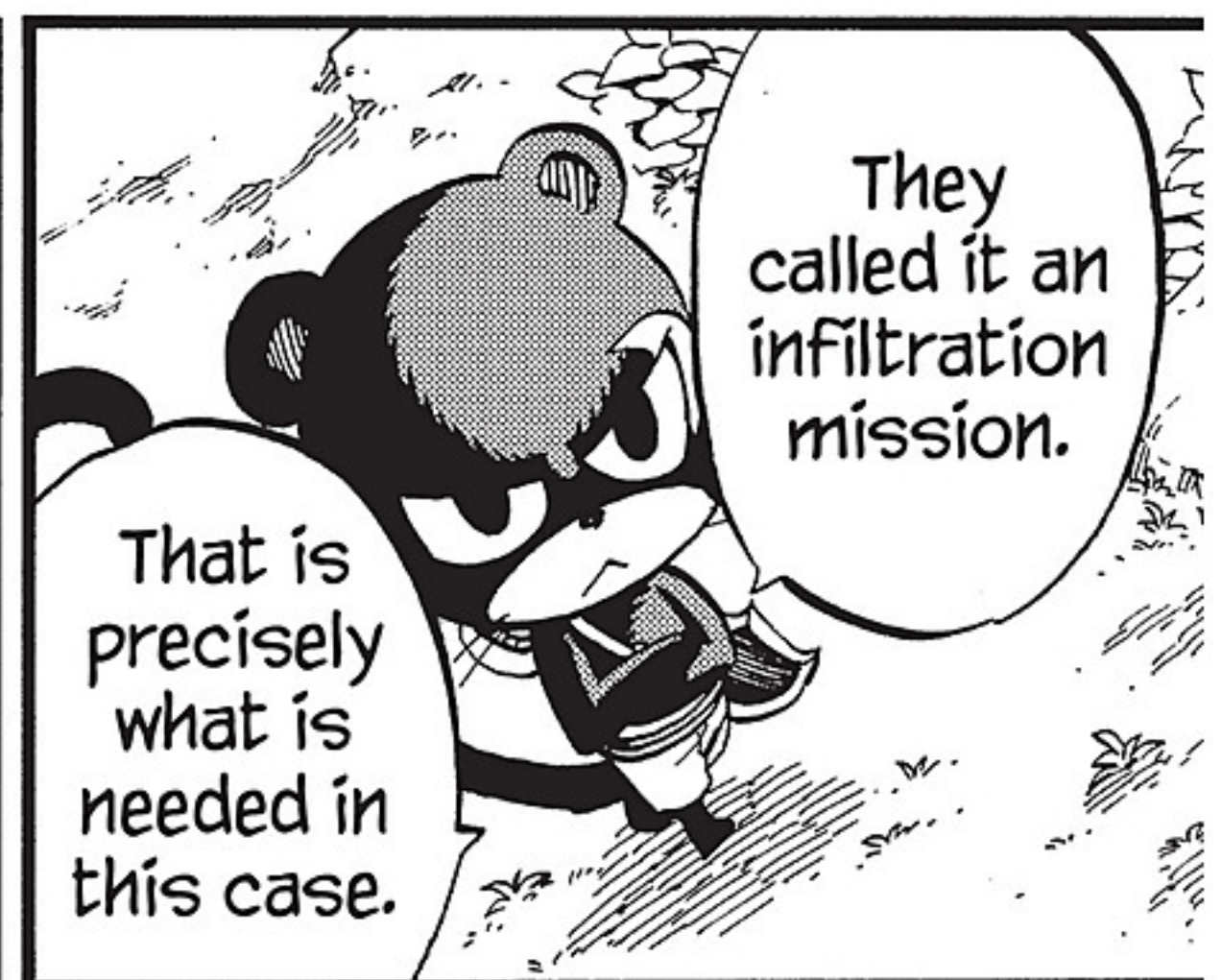
That much, I understand.

In the same stroke, he protected Lumen Histoire from an enemy country.











Right?

...That's why we're taking different routes—to improve the odds even the tiniest bit.

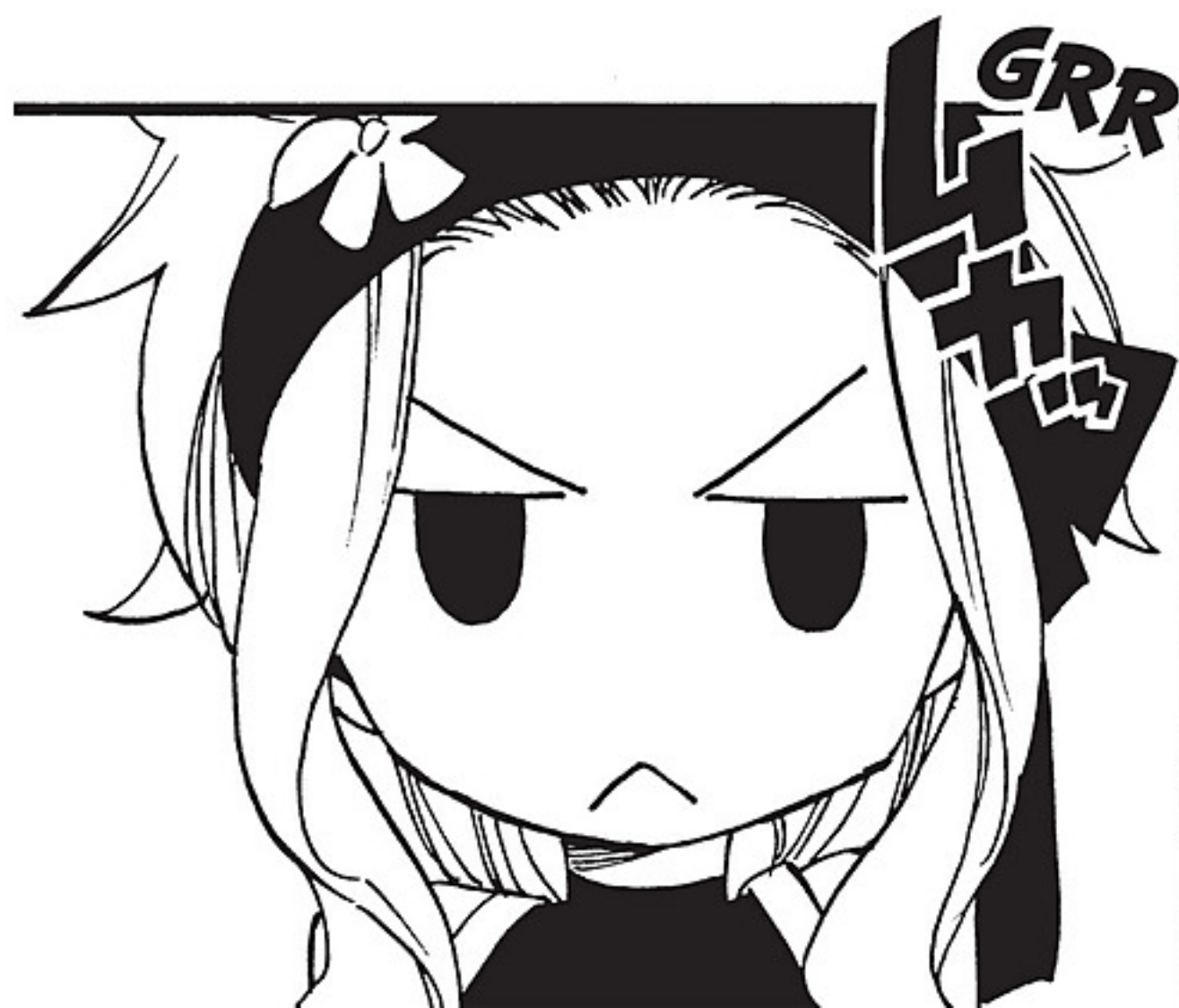


Our chance of success, even for this mission, is hopelessly close to zero...



Leaving me behind like that was just plain rude!

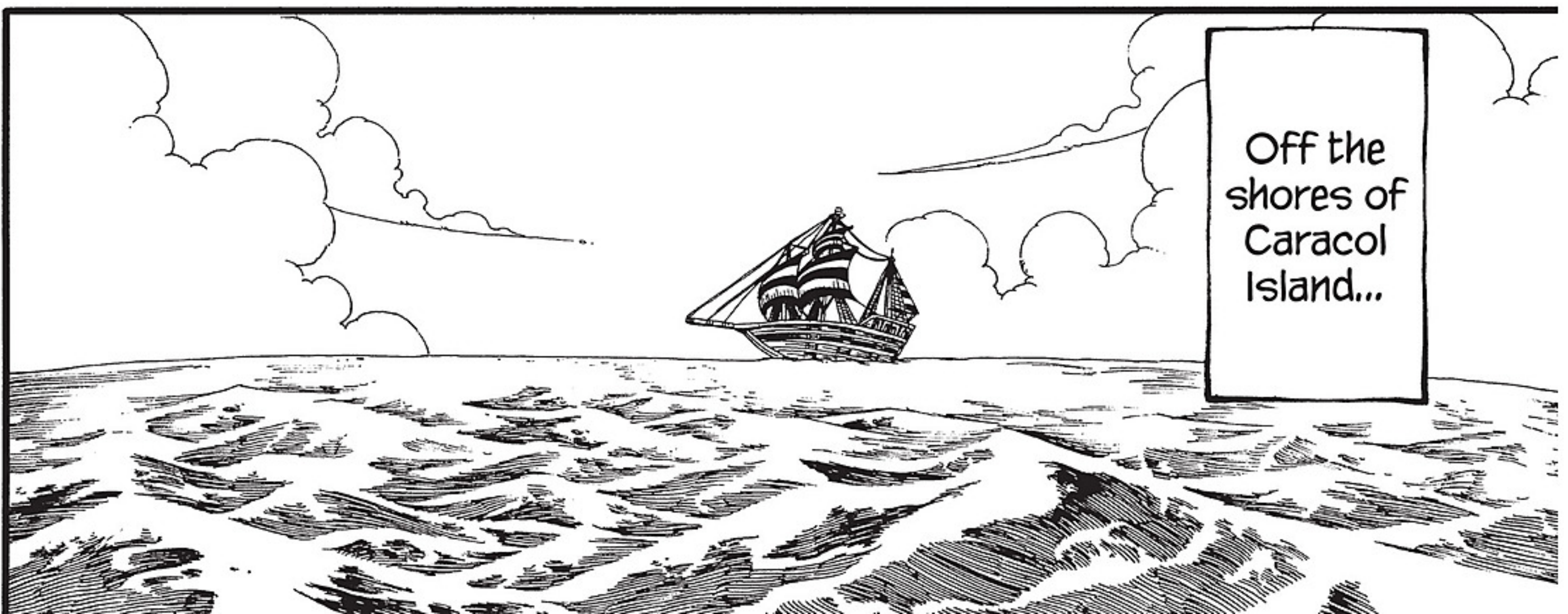
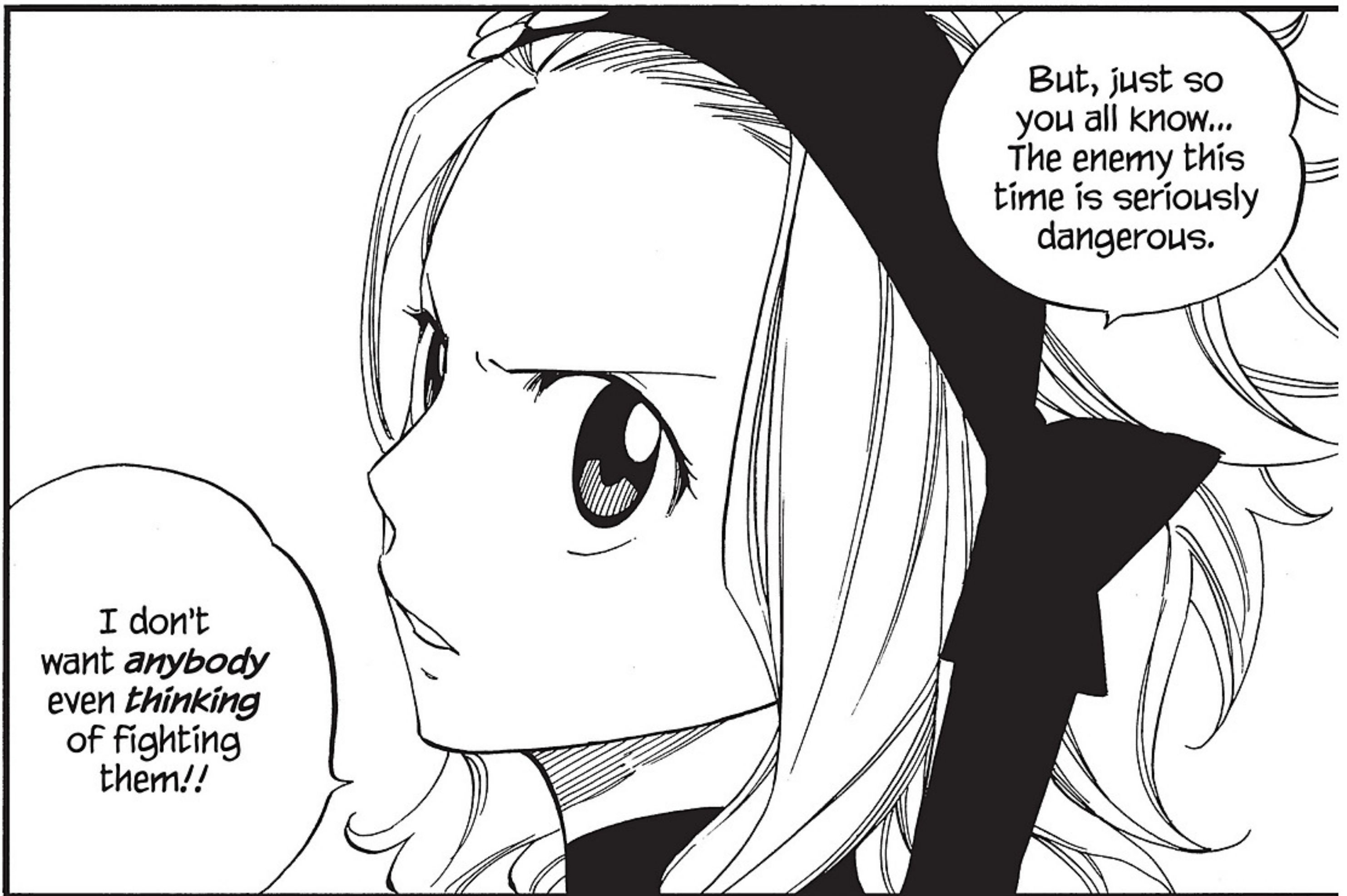
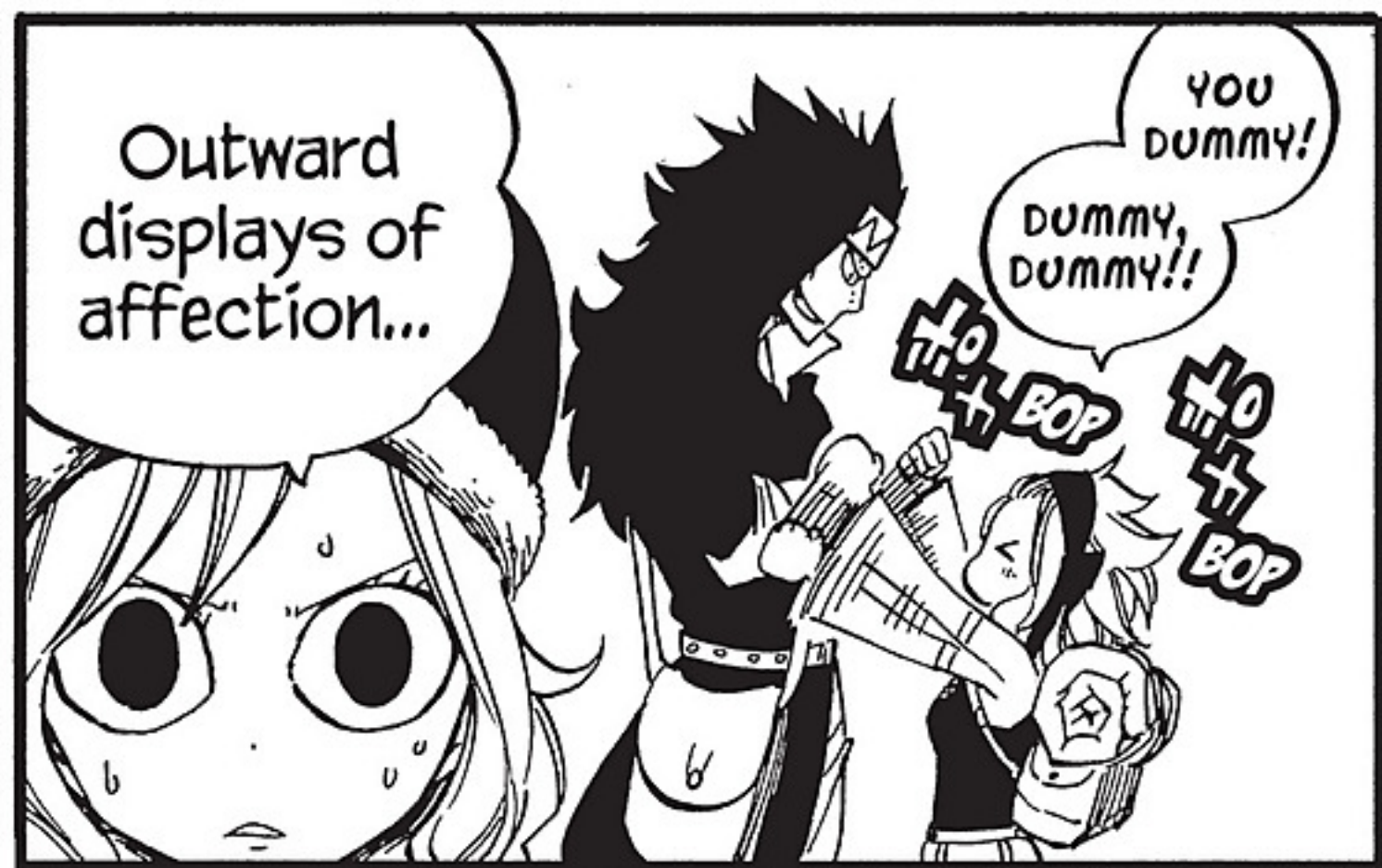
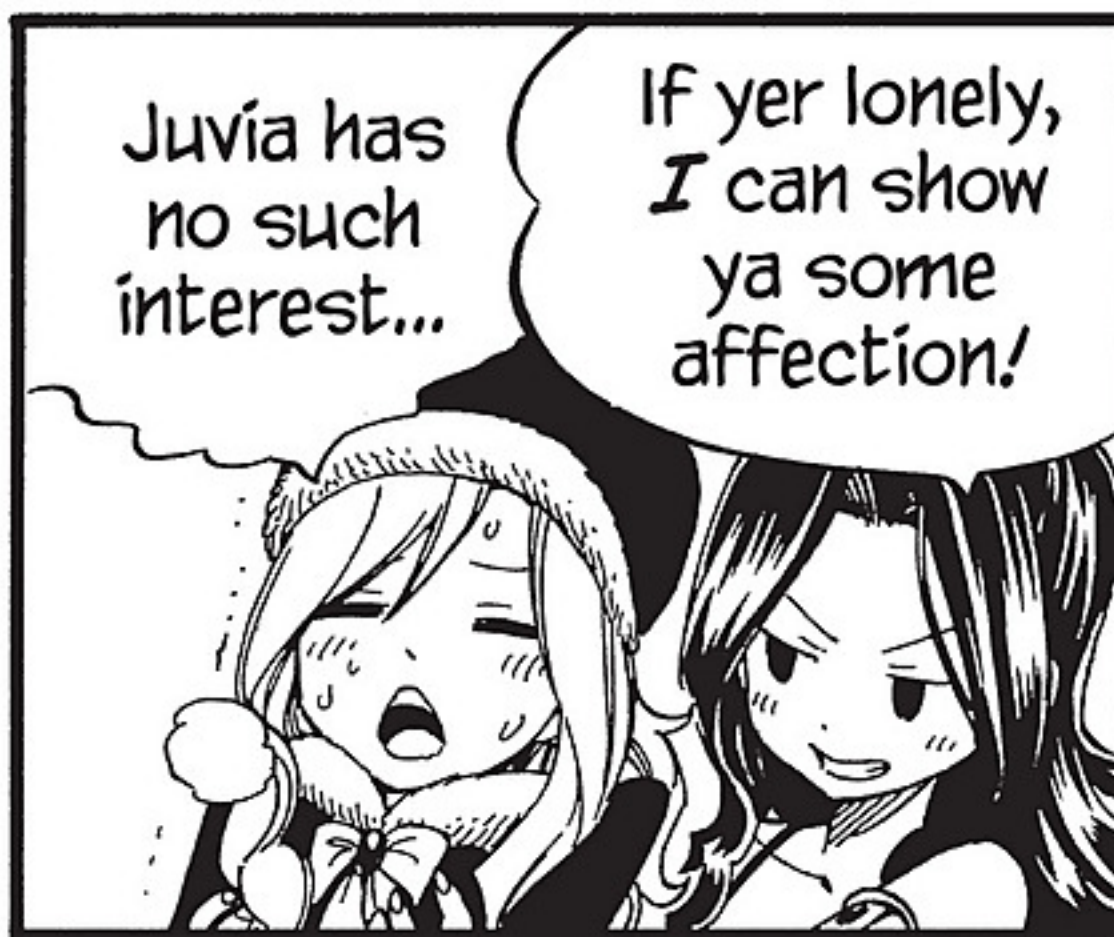
Honestly!



GRR

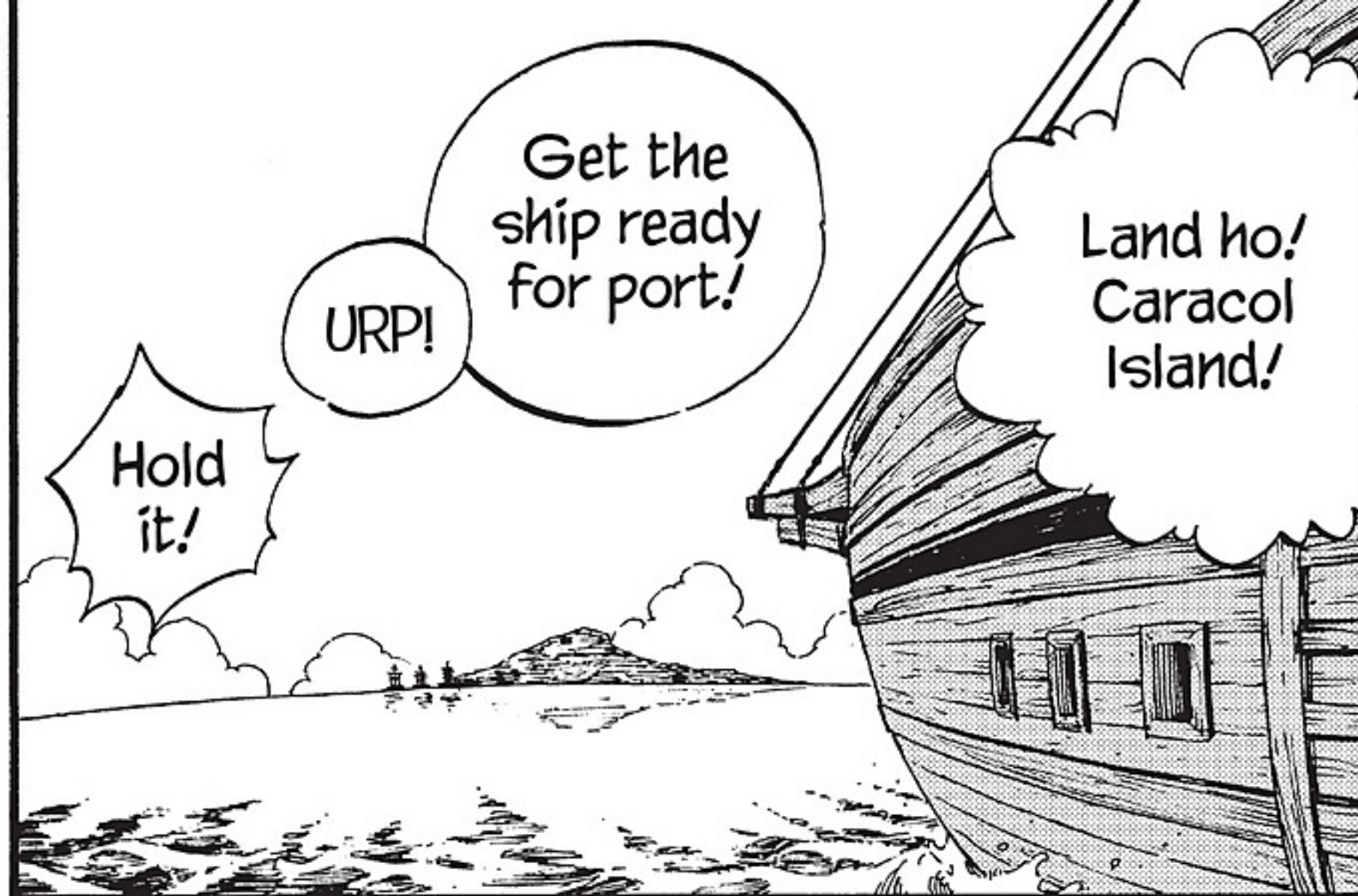


Huh? Oh. Yer so tiny, I thought I already packed you in my bag.





Those ships!
What are they?

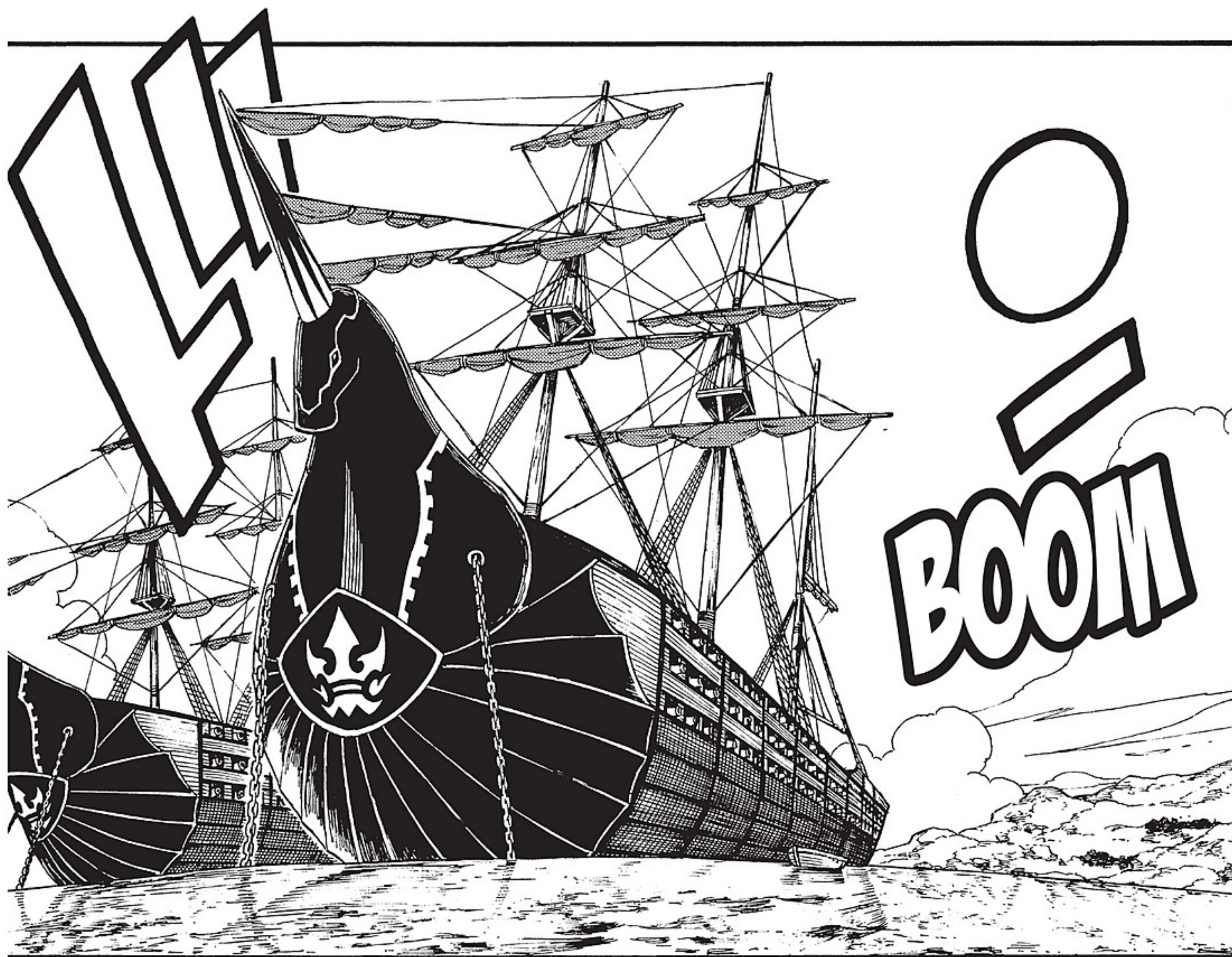


URP!

Get the
ship ready
for port!

Land ho!
Caracol
Island!

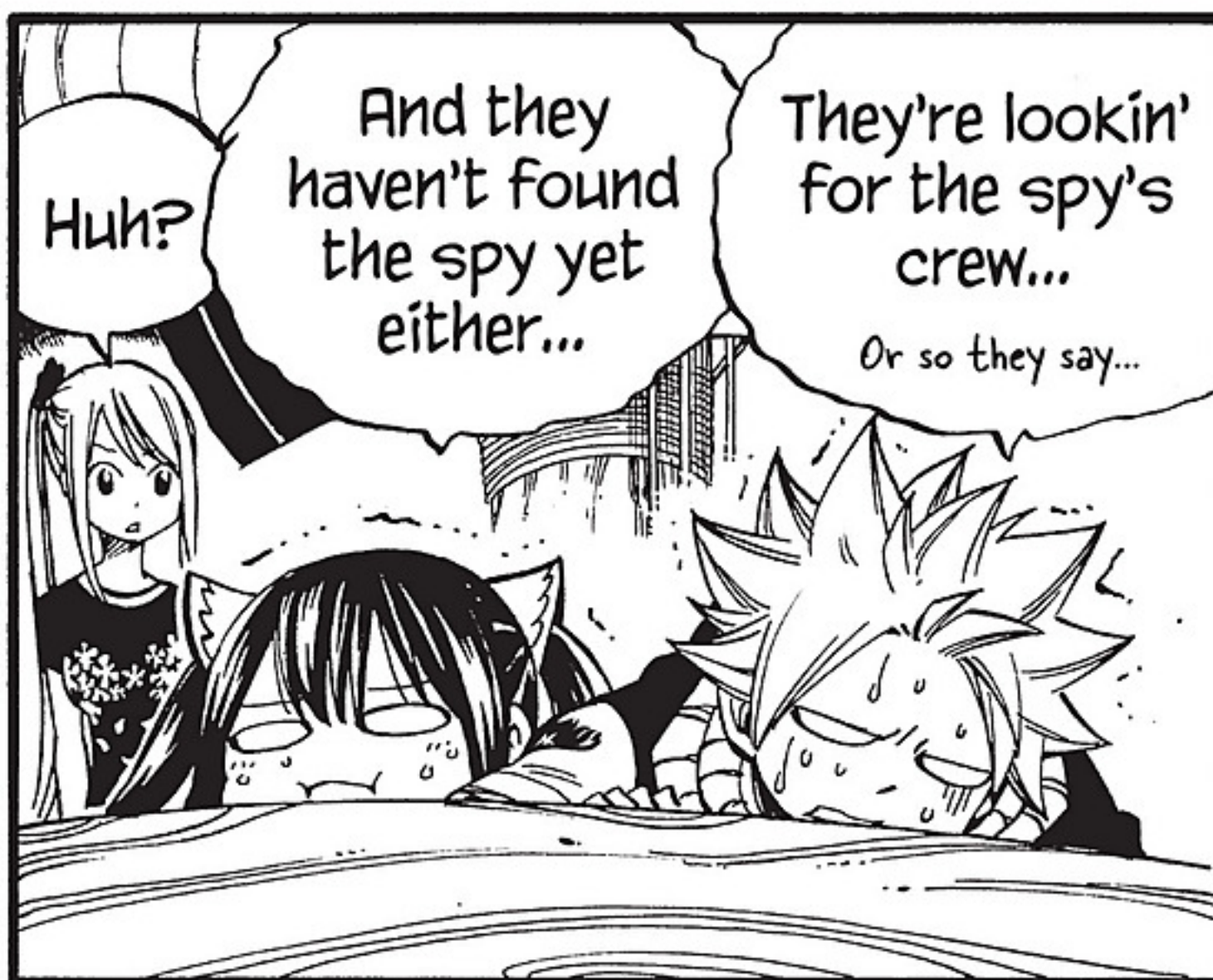
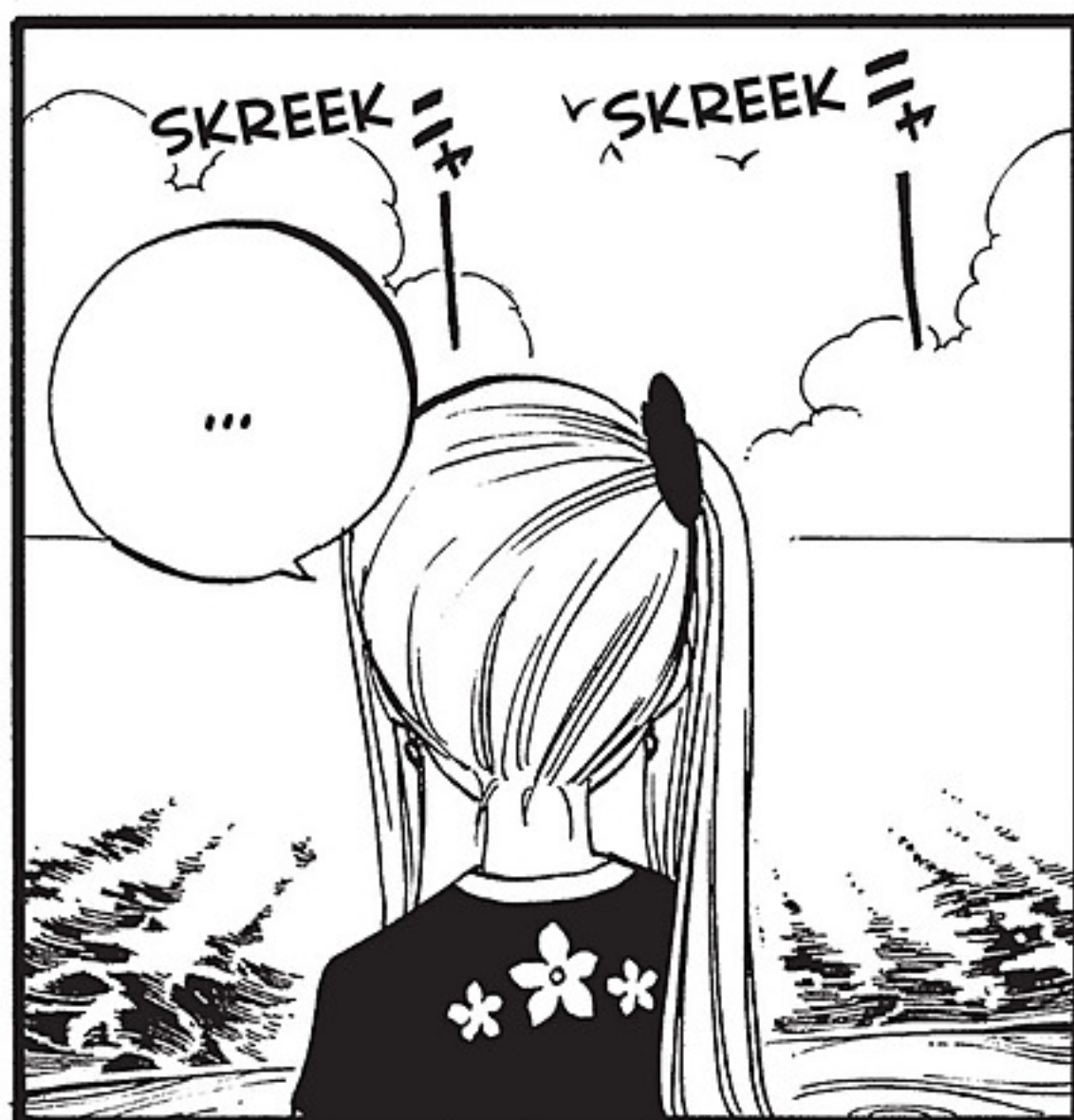
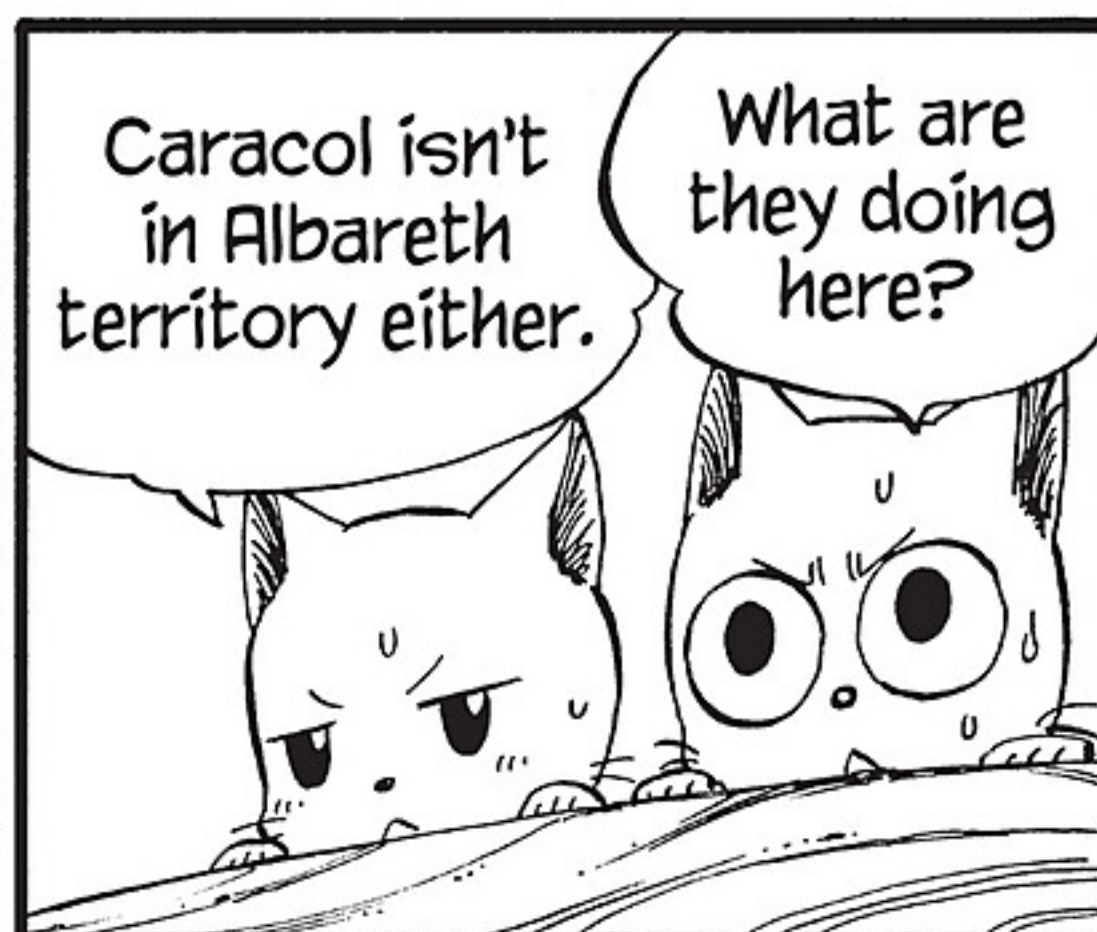
Hold
it!

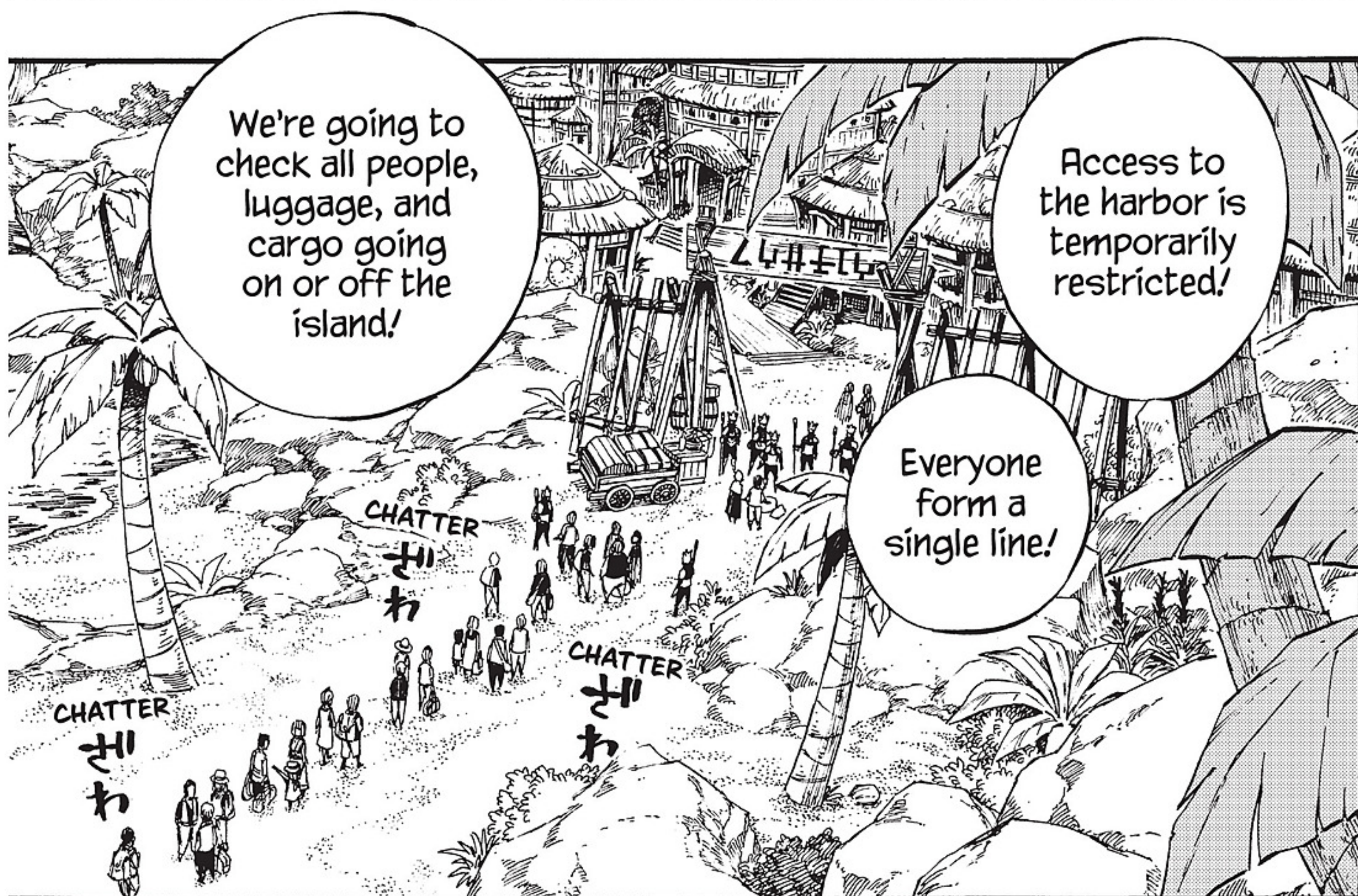


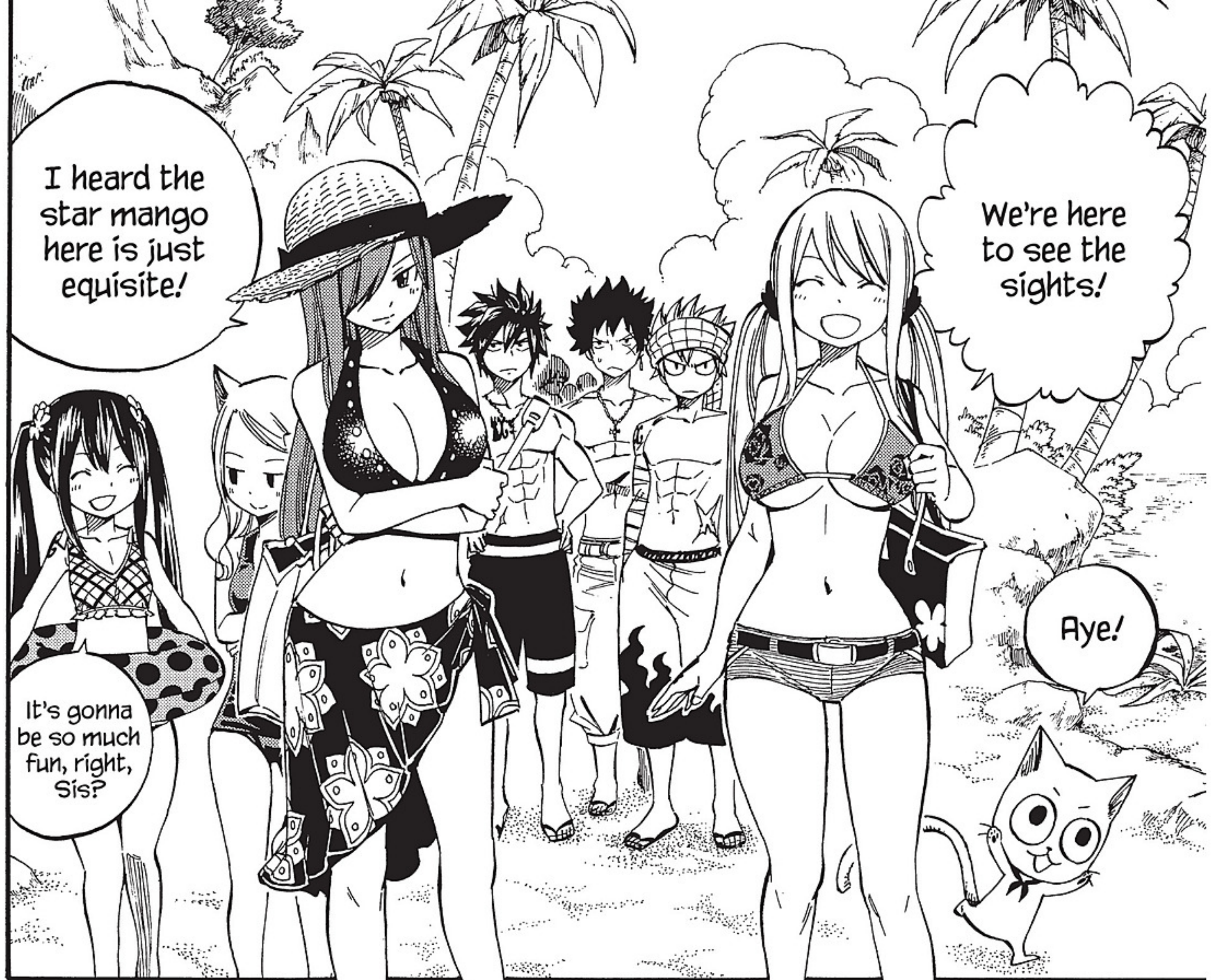
BOOM

The
Albareth
military is
here?!









I heard the star mango here is just exquisite!

We're here to see the sights!

Aye!

It's gonna be so much fun, right, Sis?



We're in the Cait Shelter wizard's guild!

Are those guild marks?

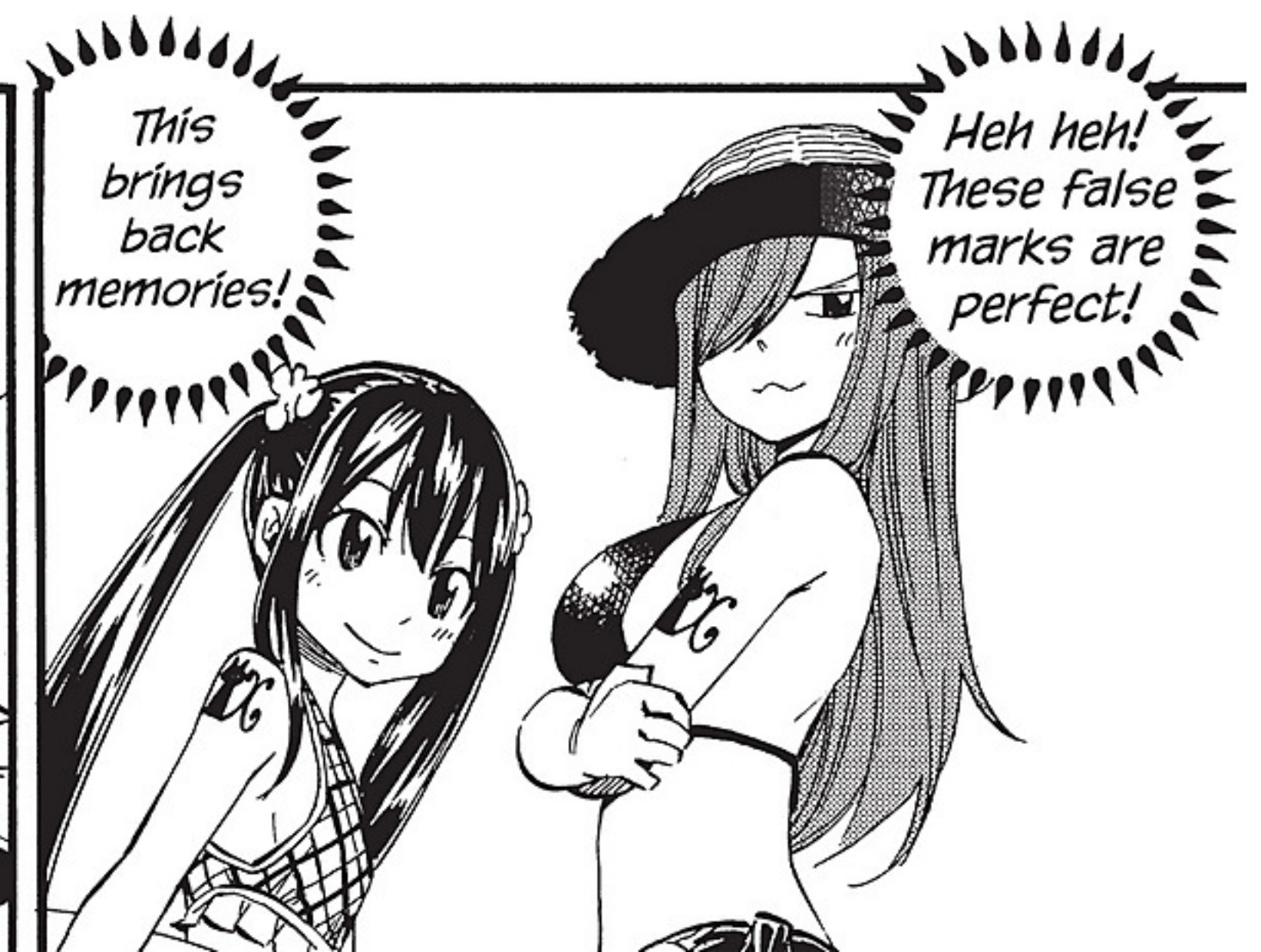
Is that setup even necessary?

"Sis" ...?



Not surprising. Most Ishgal guilds aren't *worth* knowing.

Never heard of *that* guild!



This brings back memories!

Heh heh! These false marks are perfect!



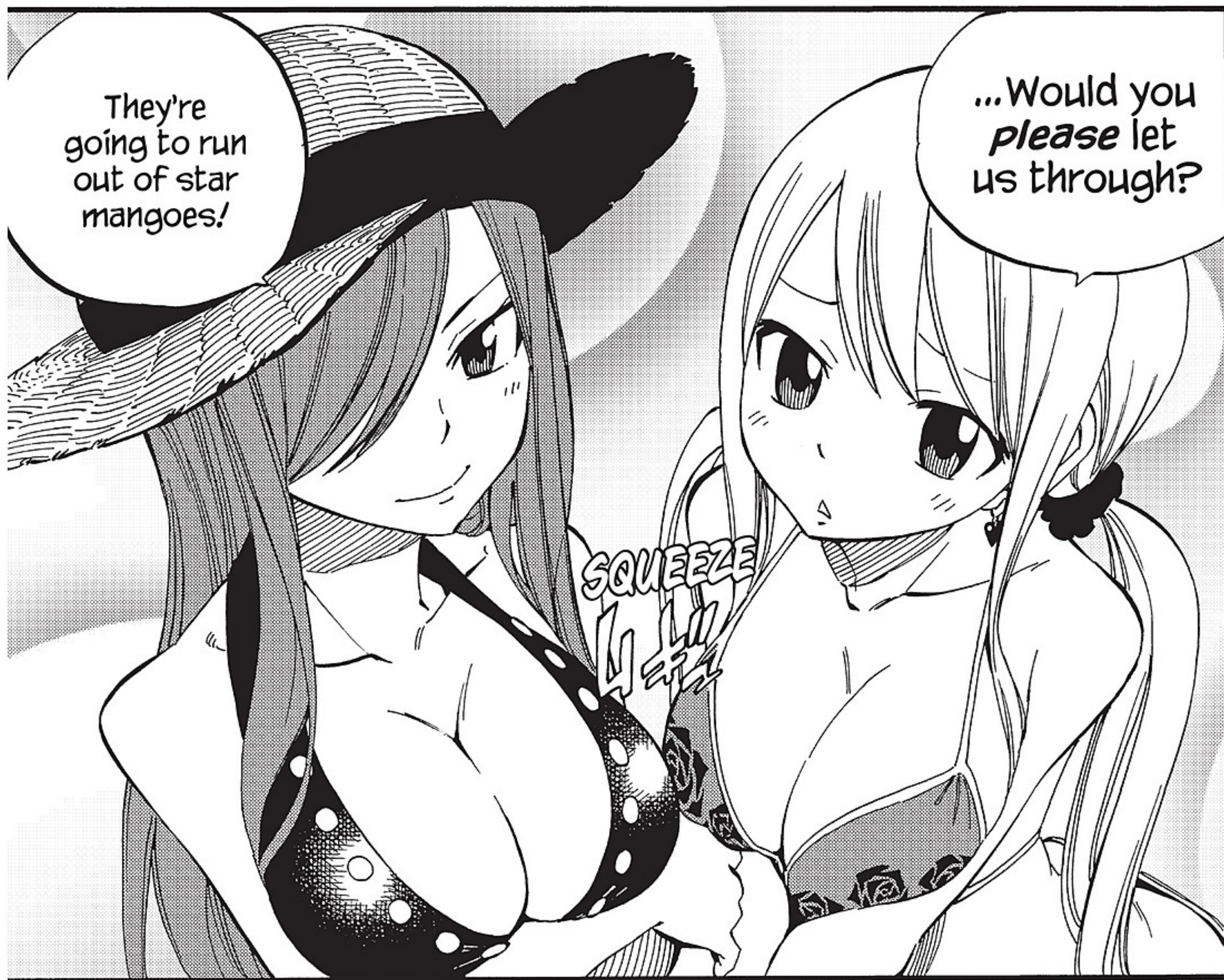
Say, guys...



Yeah, but... would anybody connected to a spy come here *displaying* their guild mark?

Should we check them more thoroughly? That's what they told us to do with the wizards.

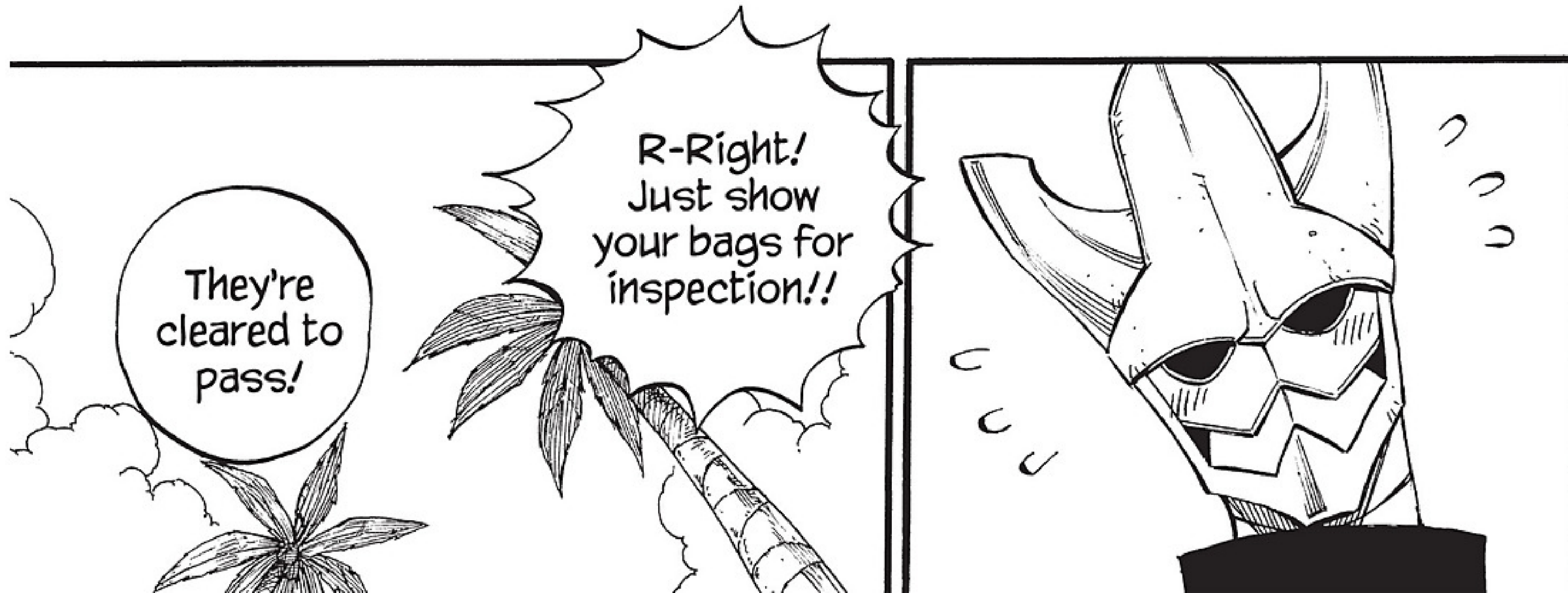
That's true...



They're going to run out of star mangoes!

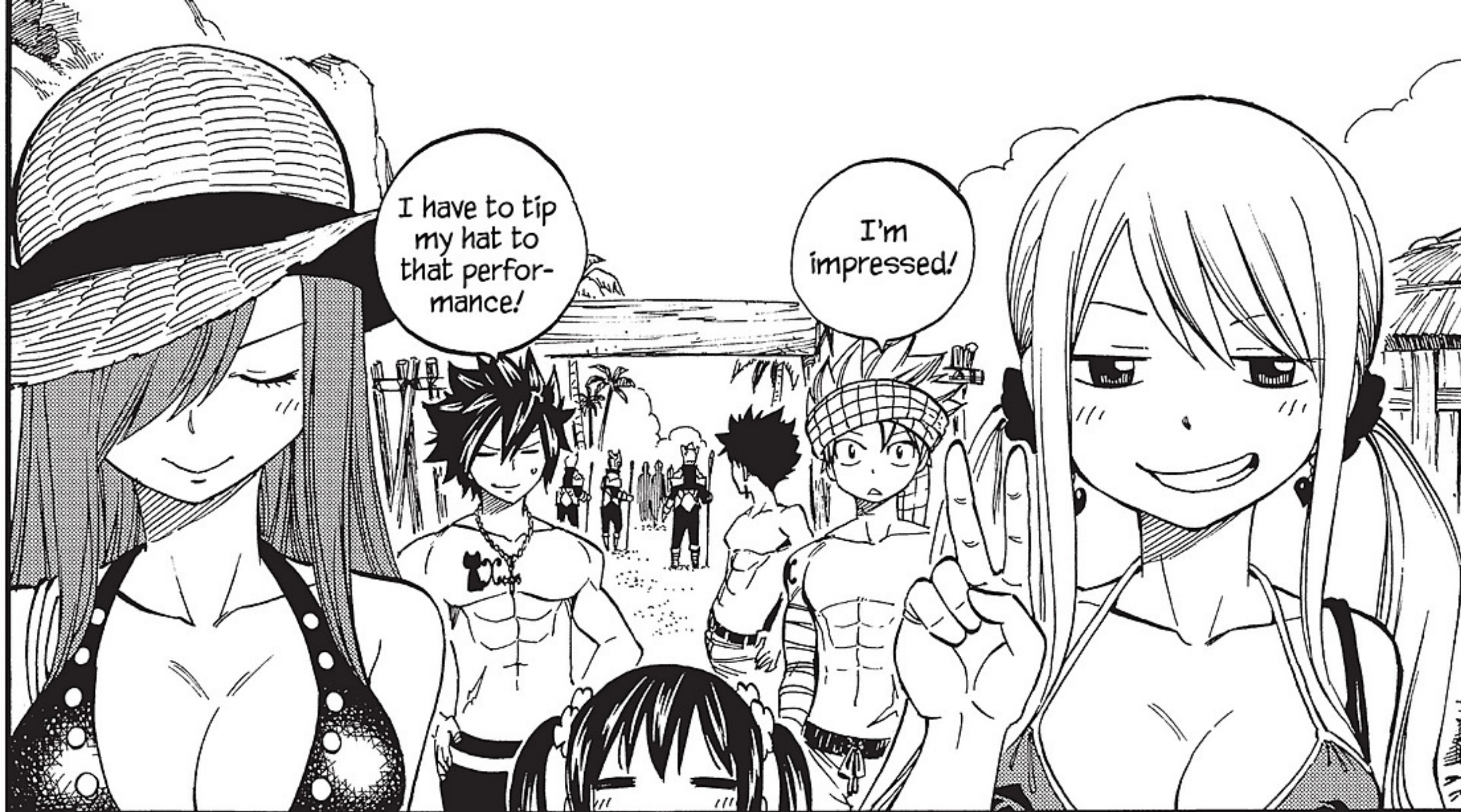
...Would you *please* let us through?

SQUEEZE



They're cleared to pass!

R-Right! Just show your bags for inspection!!



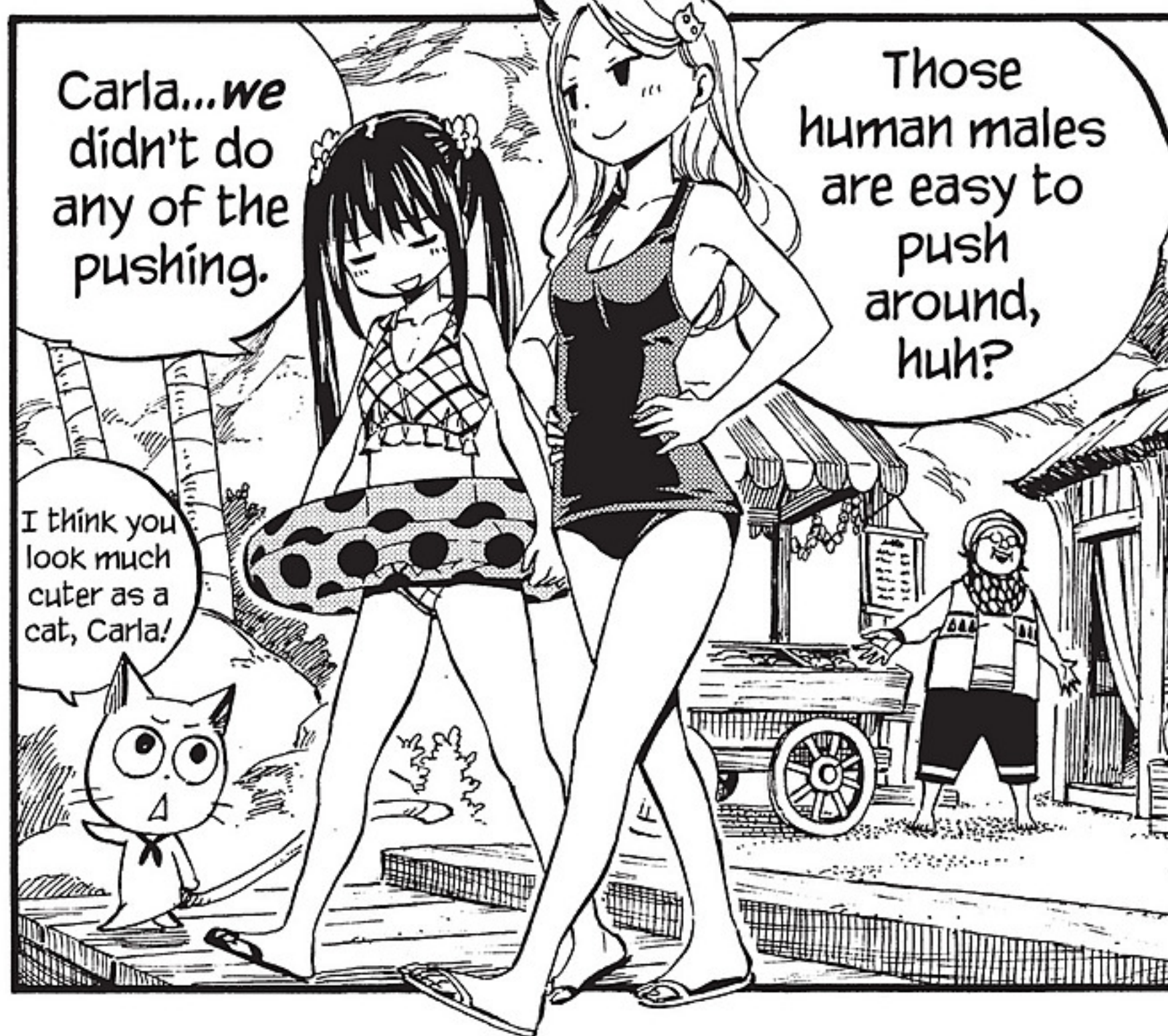
I have to tip my hat to that performance!

I'm impressed!



We mustn't relax our guard.

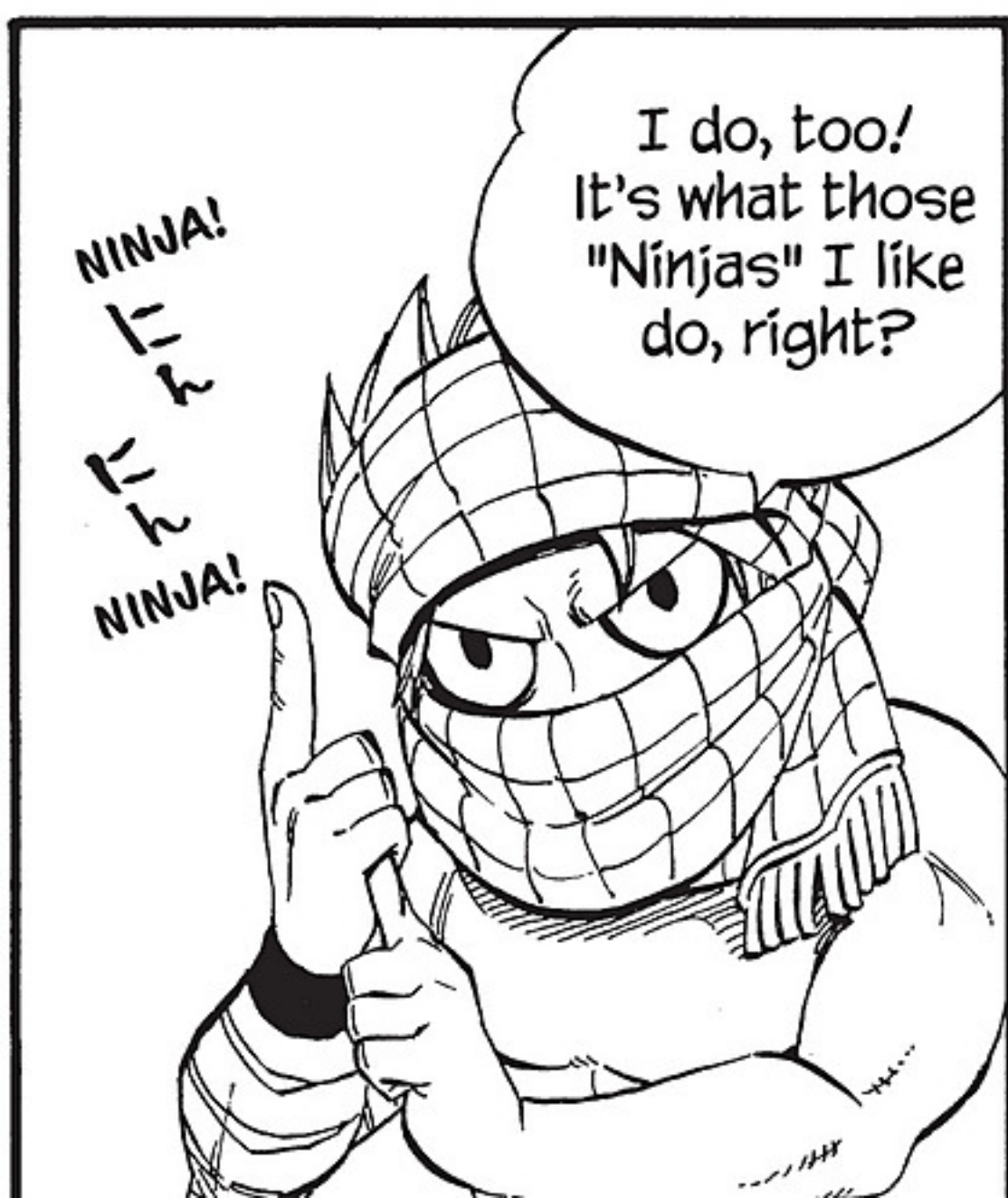
Anyway, keep your eyes open. This whole place is crawling with soldiers!



Carla...we didn't do any of the pushing.

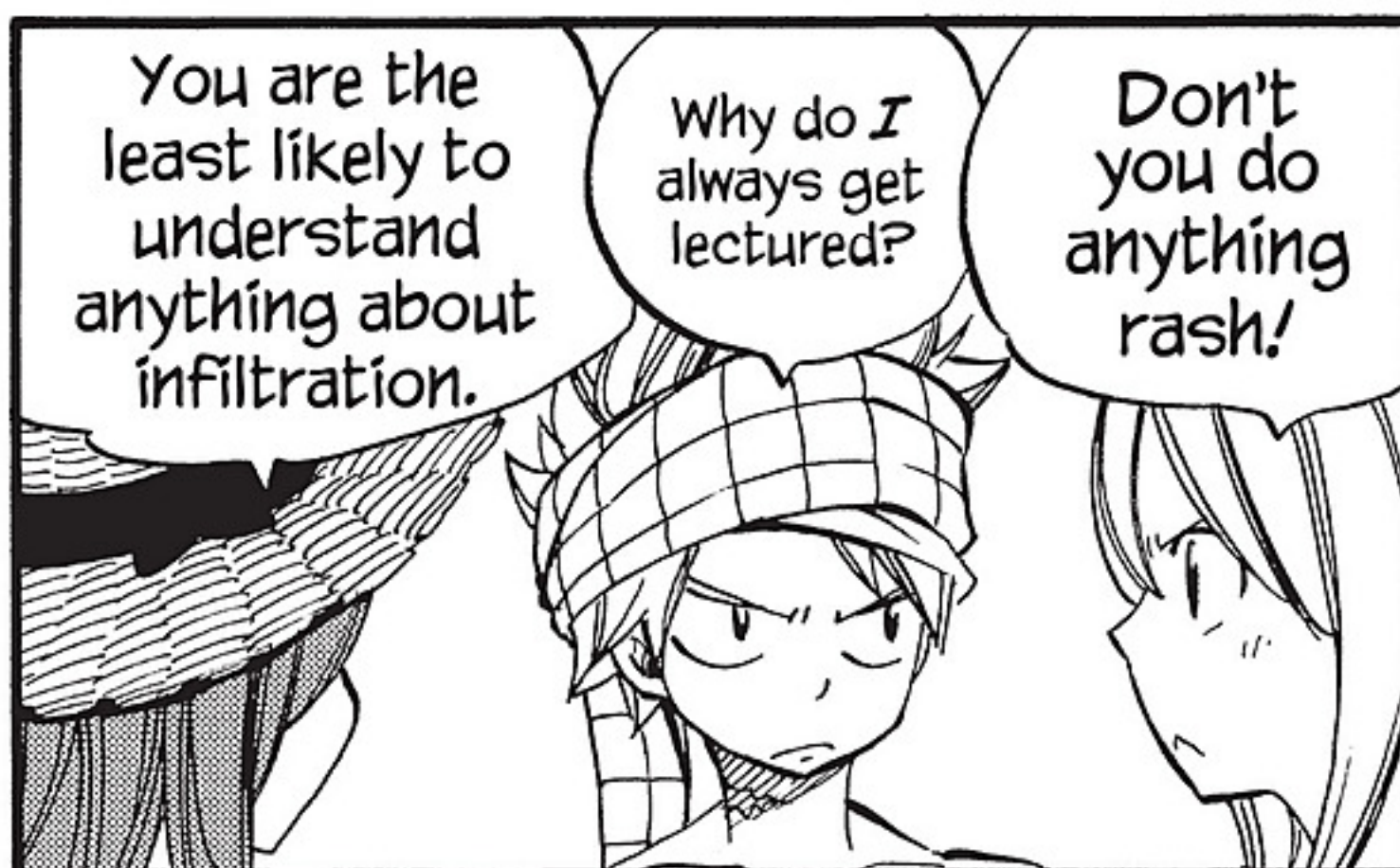
Those human males are easy to push around, huh?

I think you look much cuter as a cat, Carla!



NINJA!
Eh
Eh
NINJA!

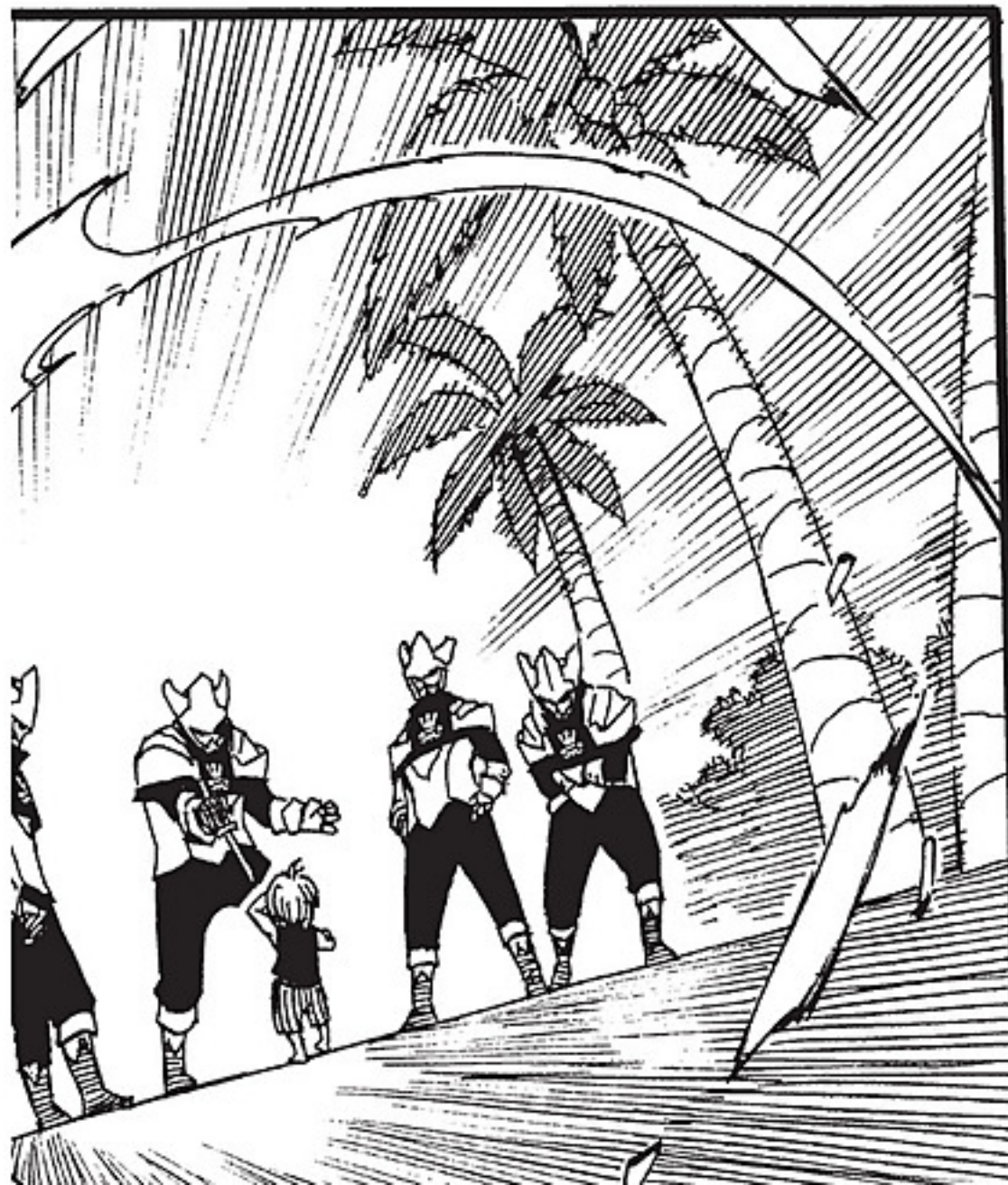
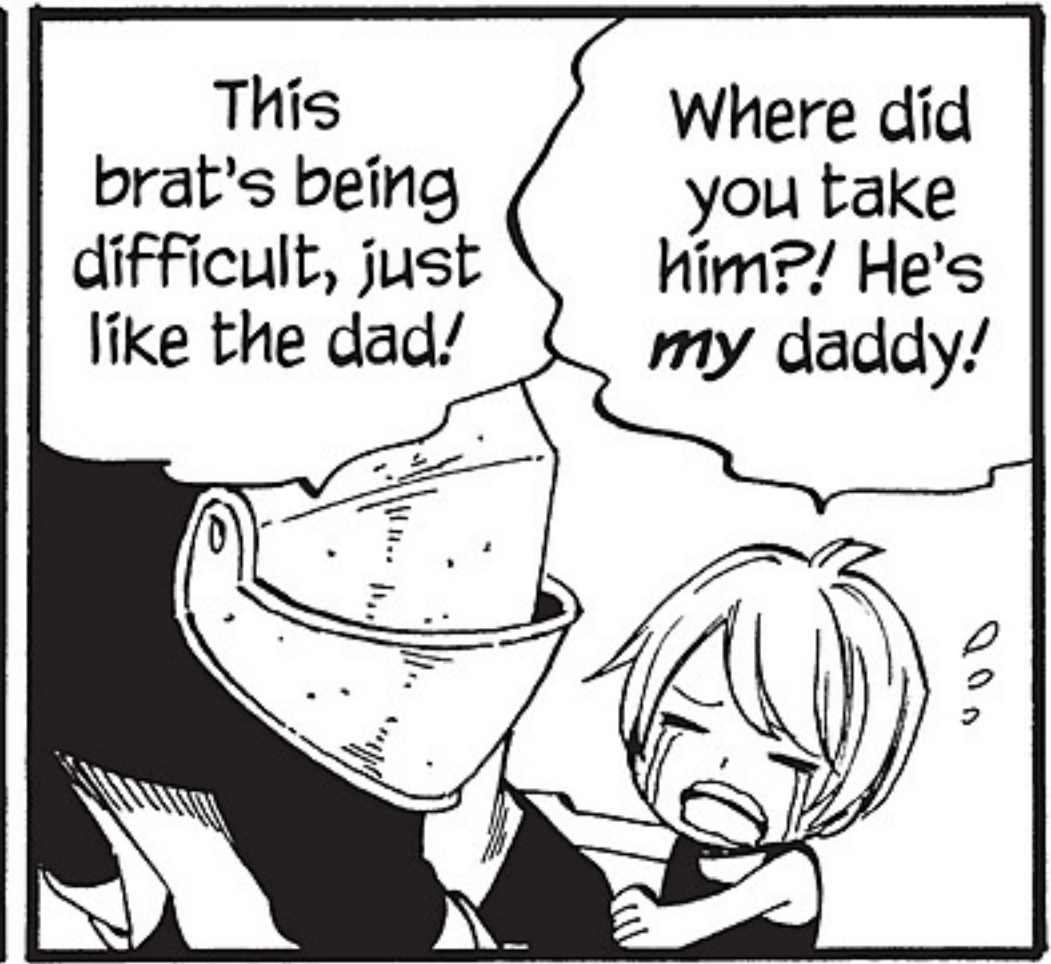
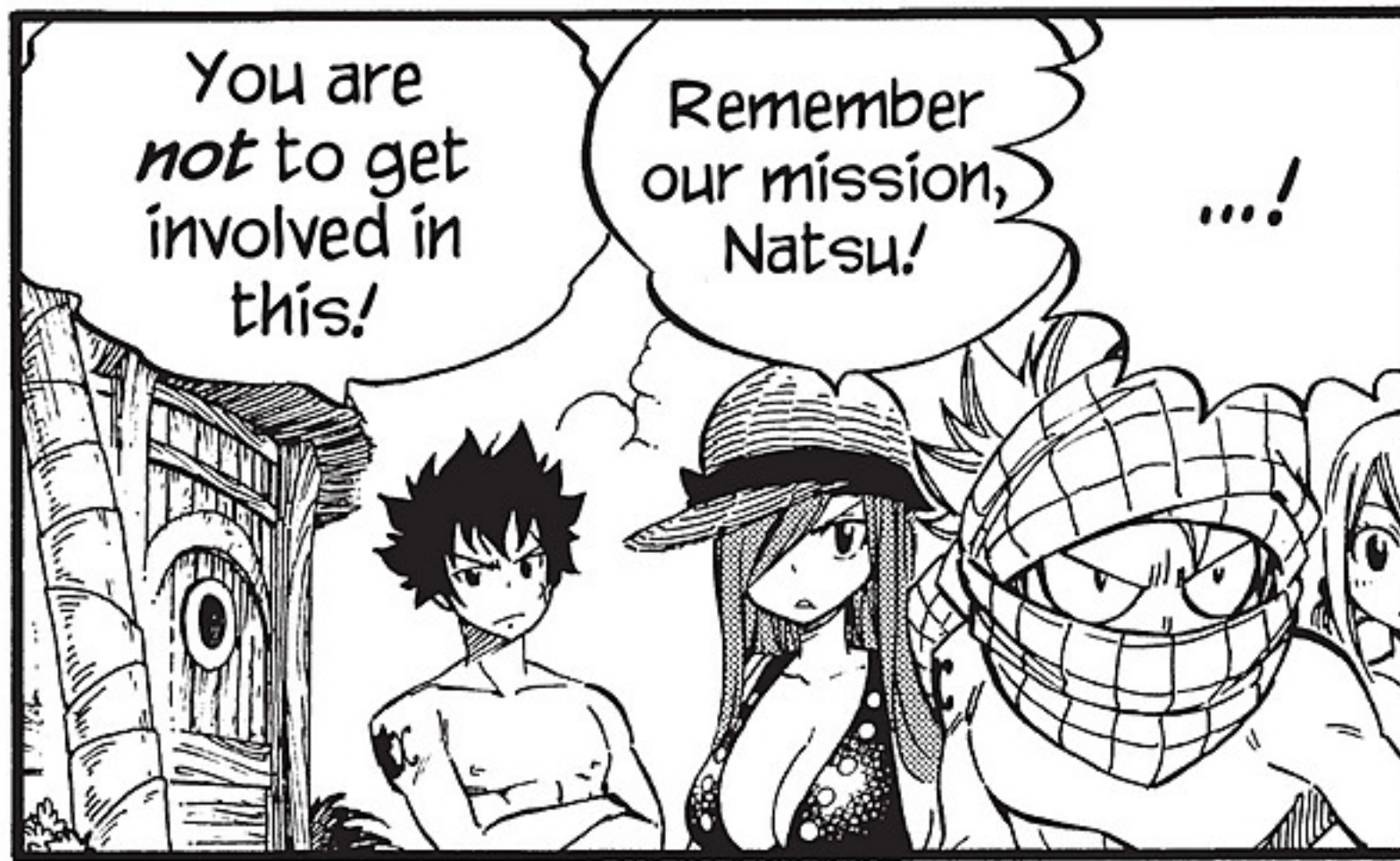
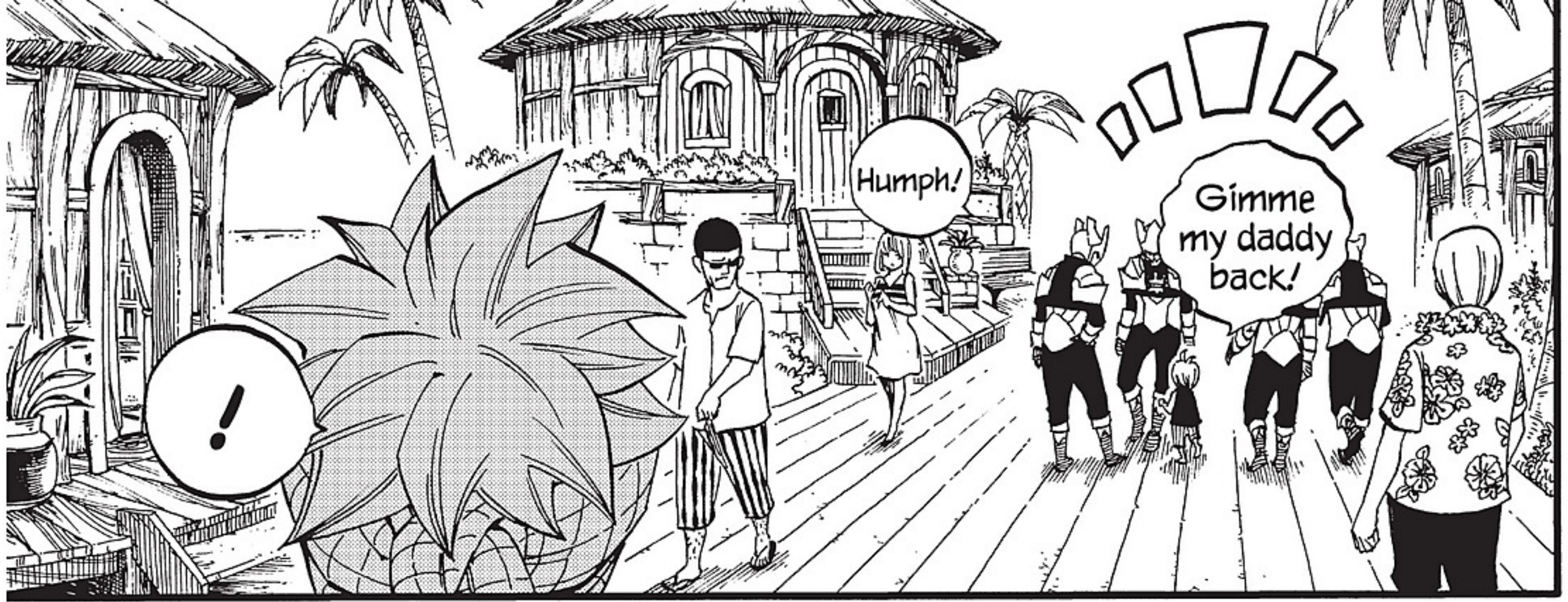
I do, too!
It's what those "Ninjas" I like do, right?



You are the least likely to understand anything about infiltration.

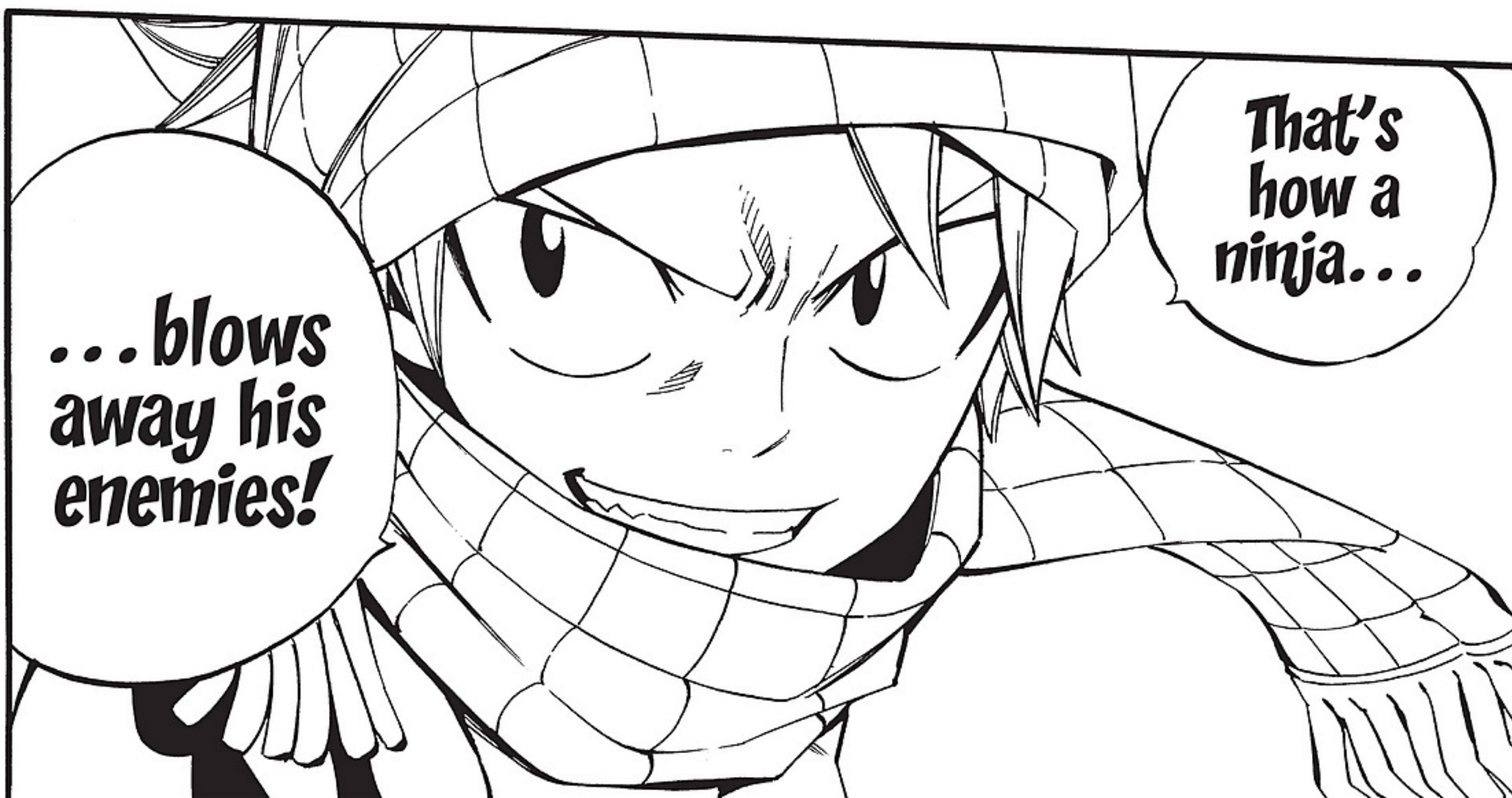
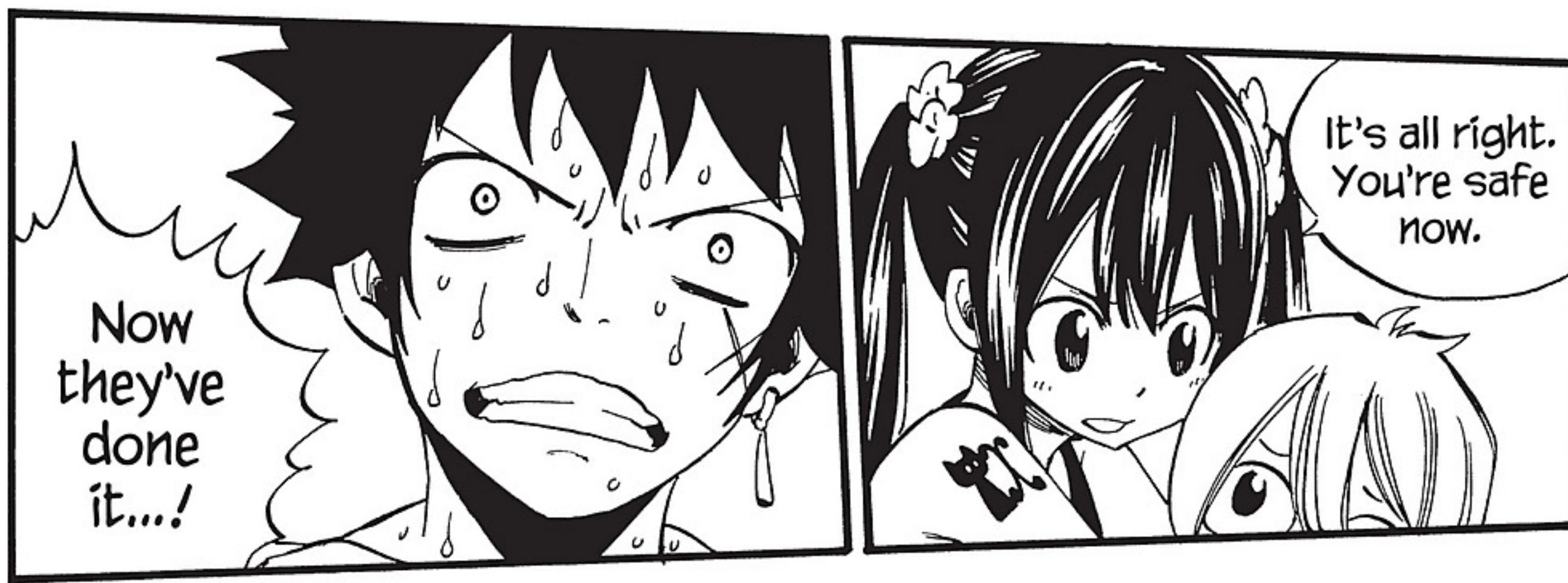
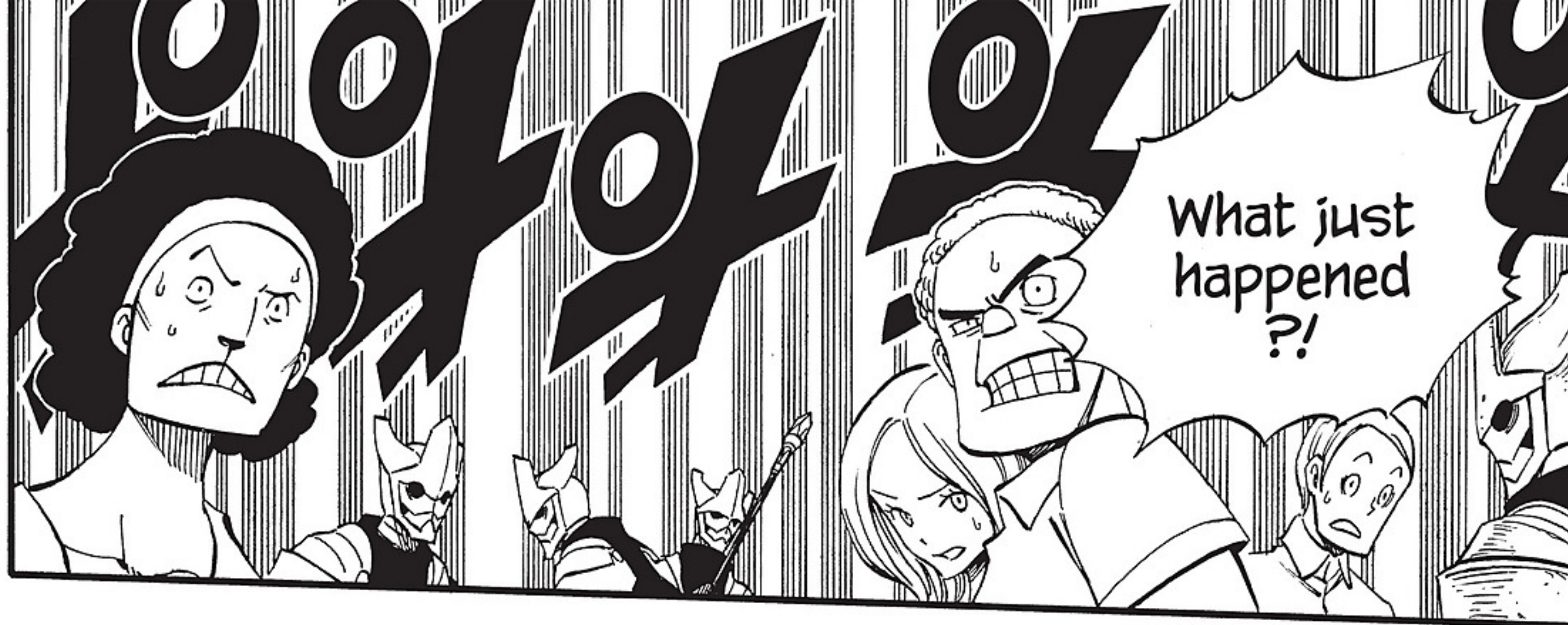
Why do I always get lectured?

Don't you do anything rash!



BOOOM



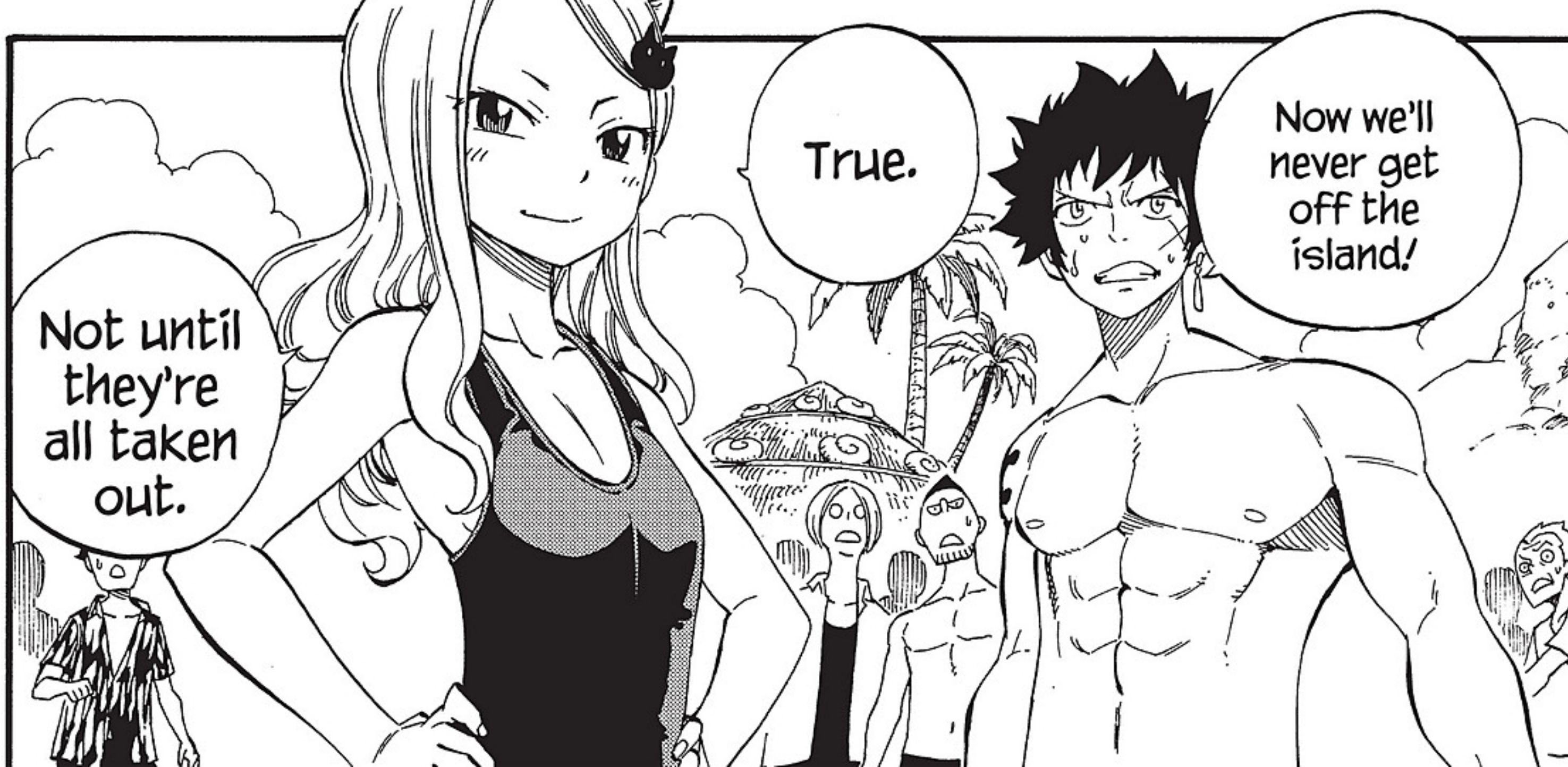
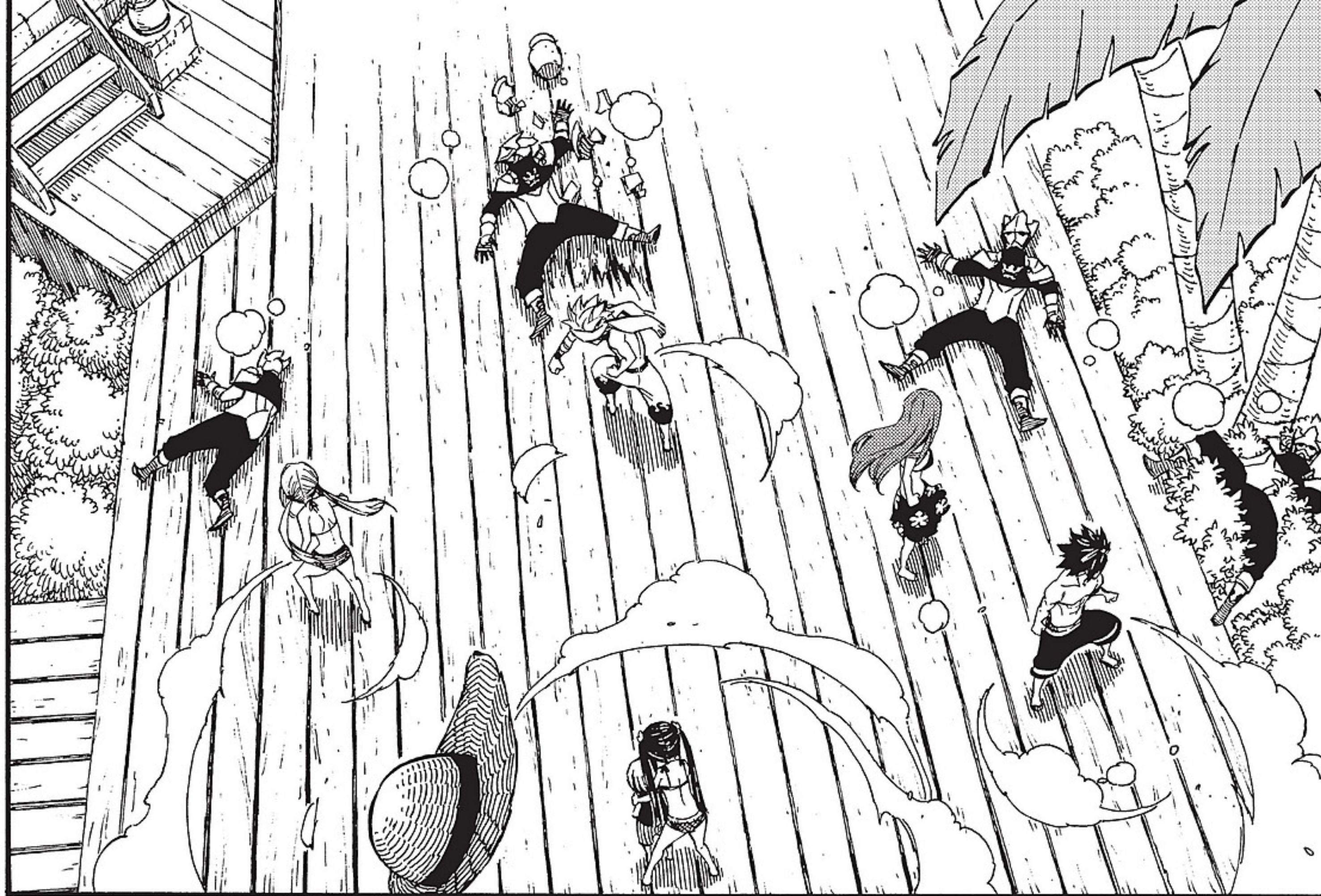


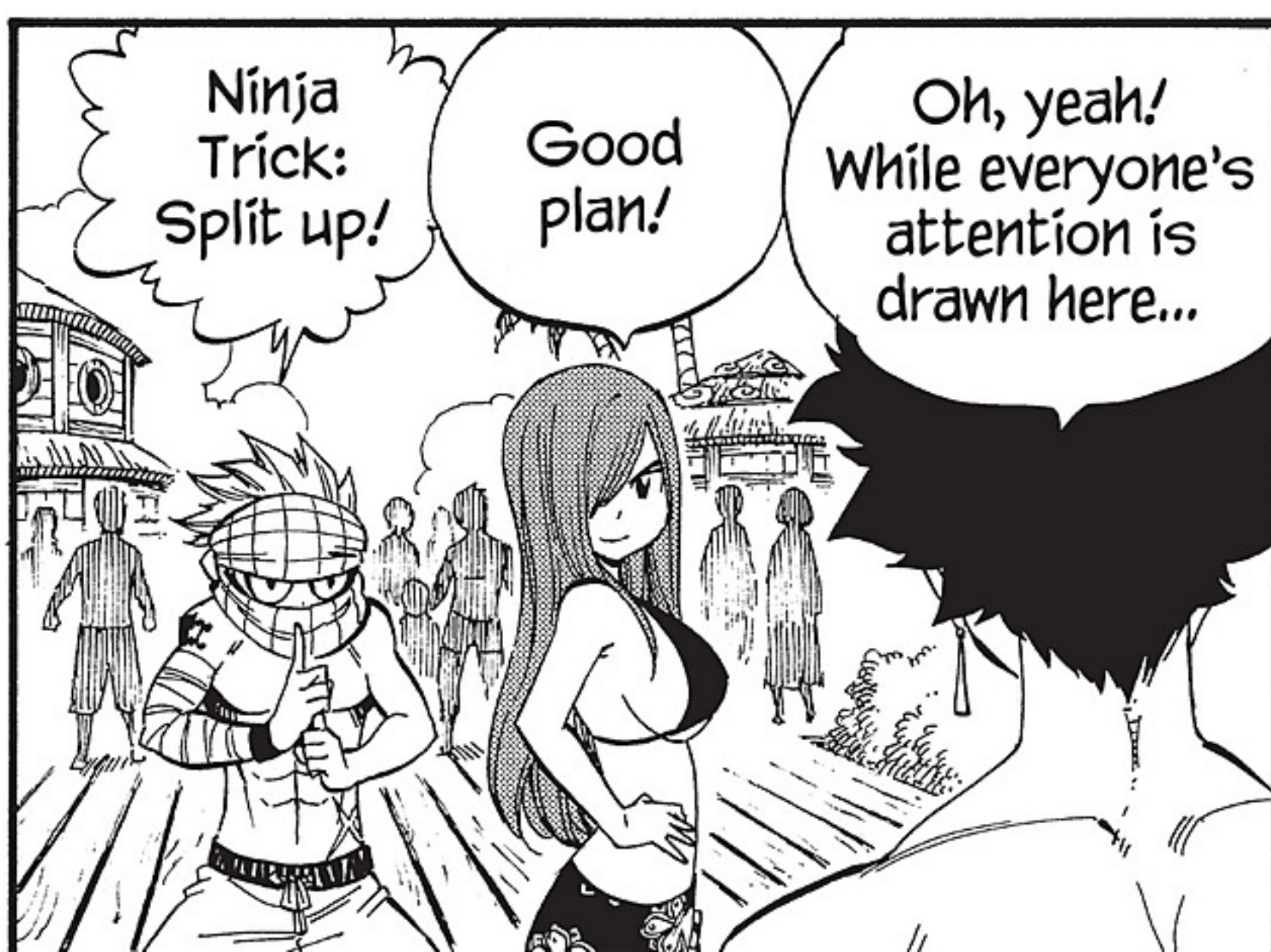
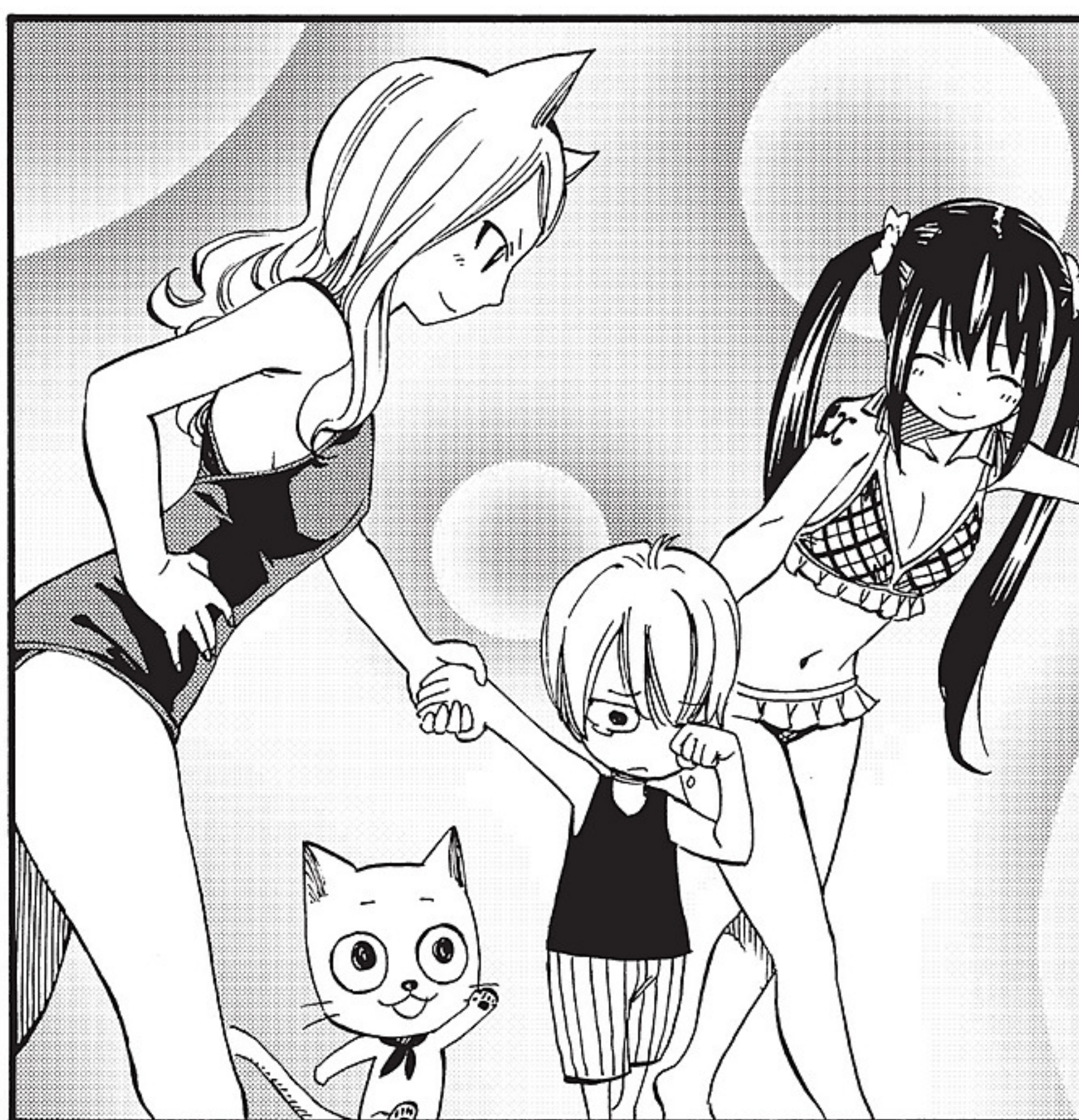
FAIRY TAIL

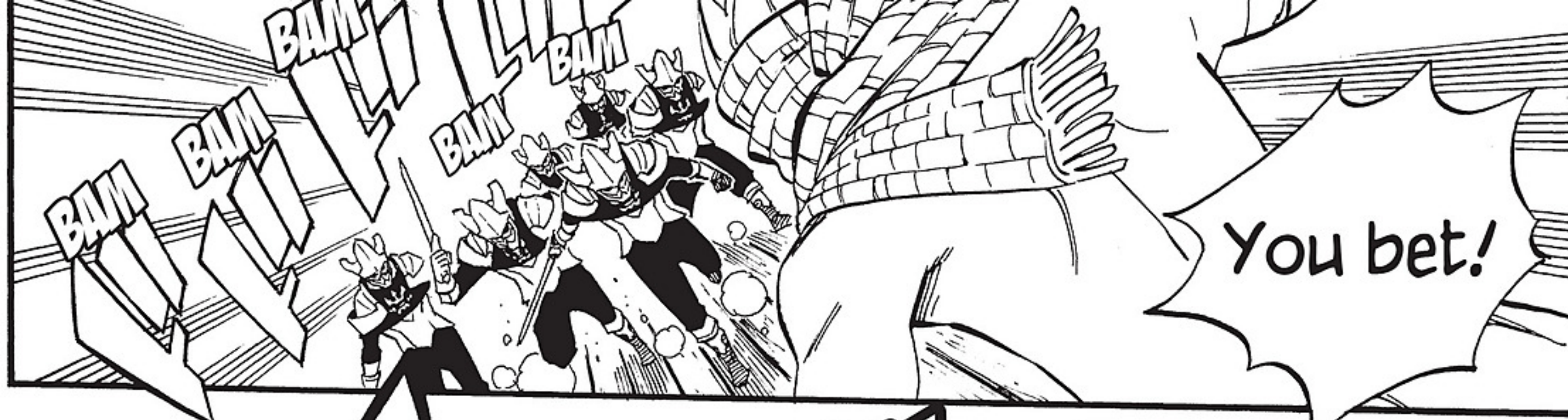
フェアリーテイル

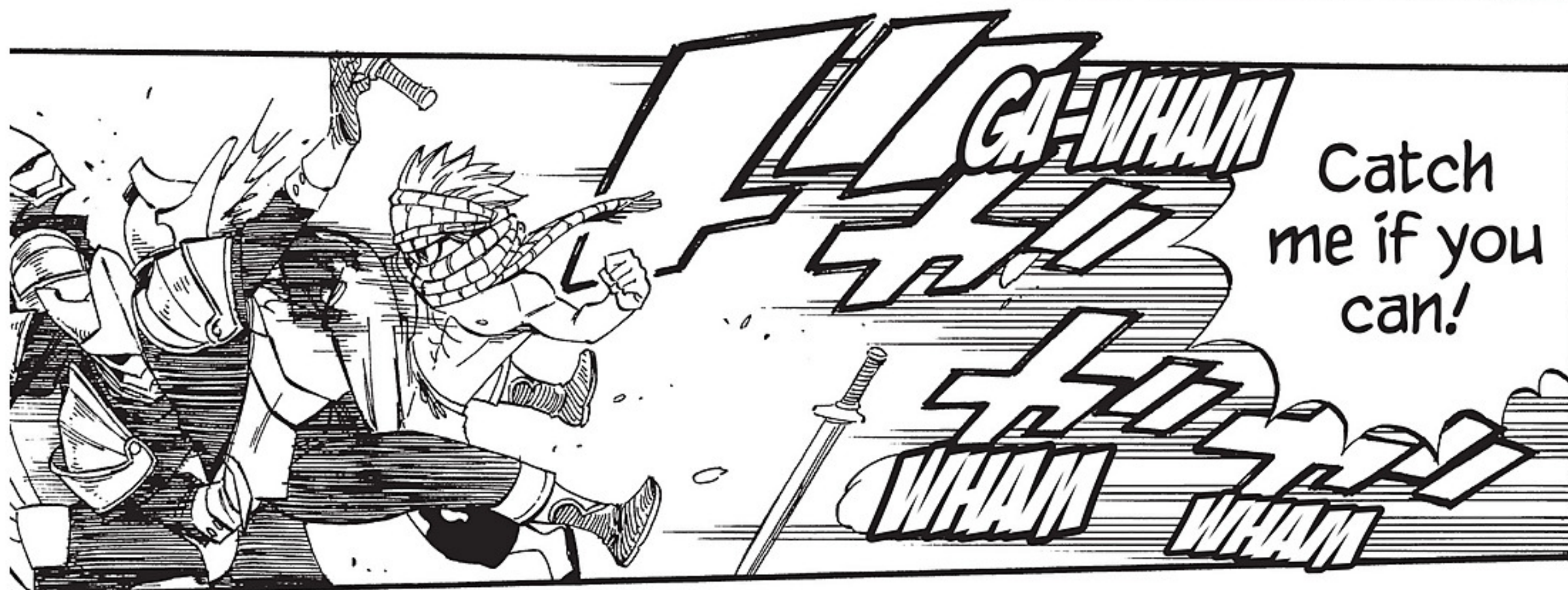
Chapter 442: Rules of the Area



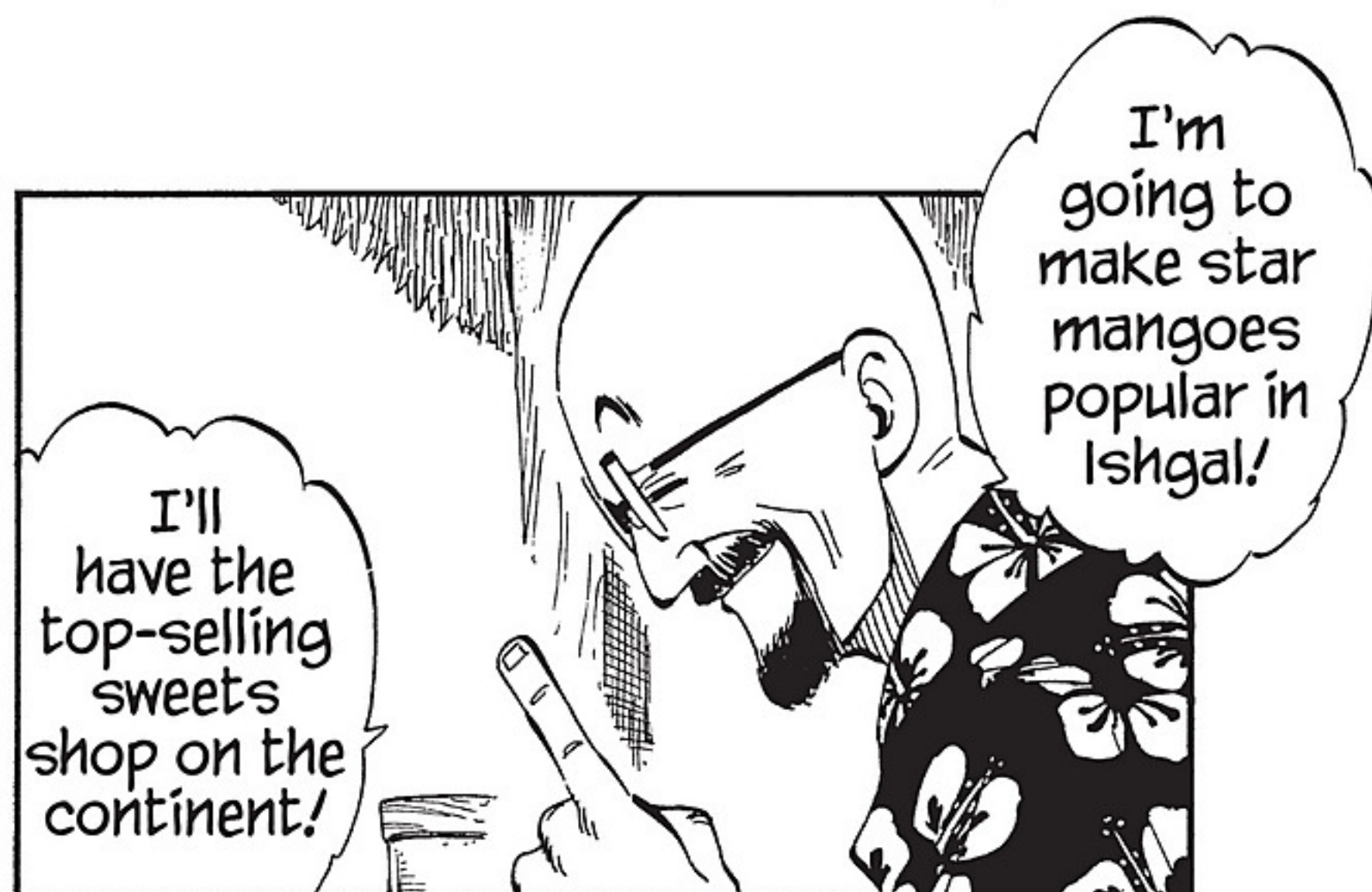


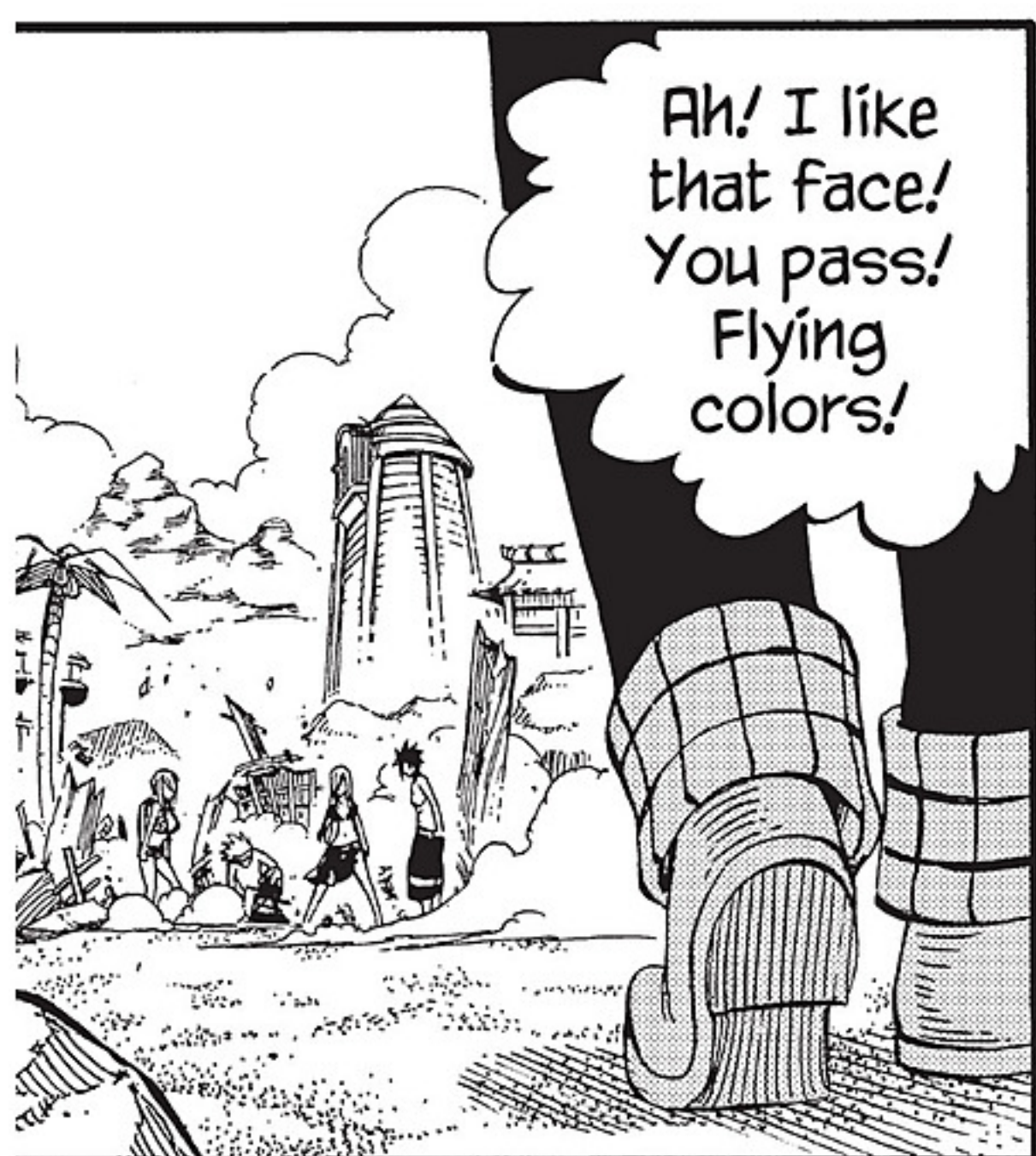














Allow me
to introduce
myself—
Marin Hollow.

I'm a member
of the Albareth
Imperial Army,
Brandish
Division.

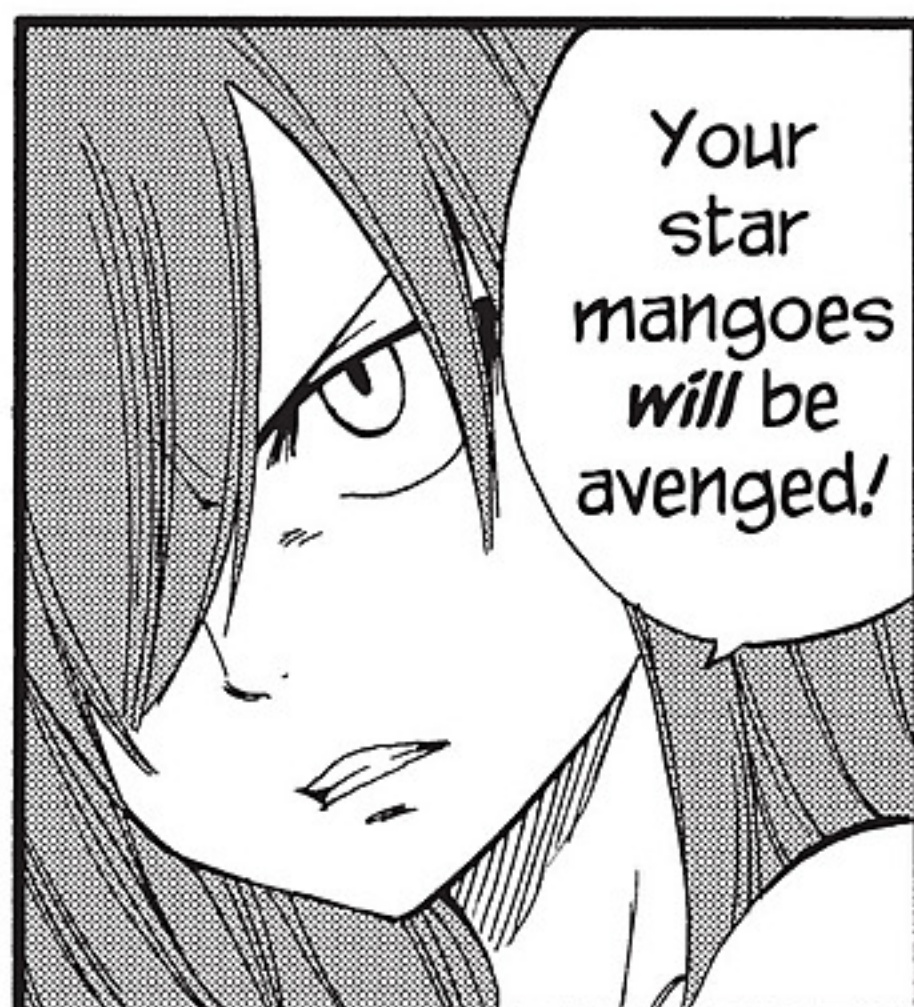
ALBARETH
IMPERIAL ARMY
BRANDISH DIVISION

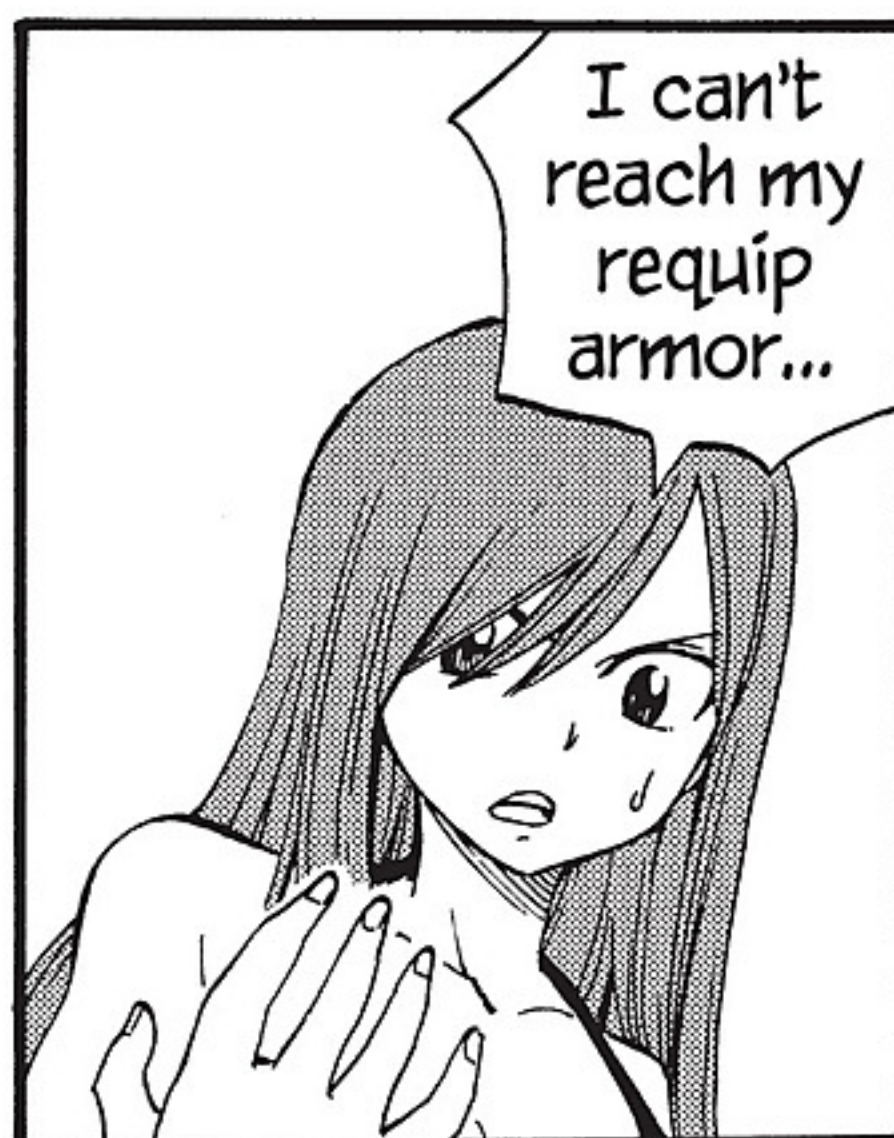
MARIN HOLLOW

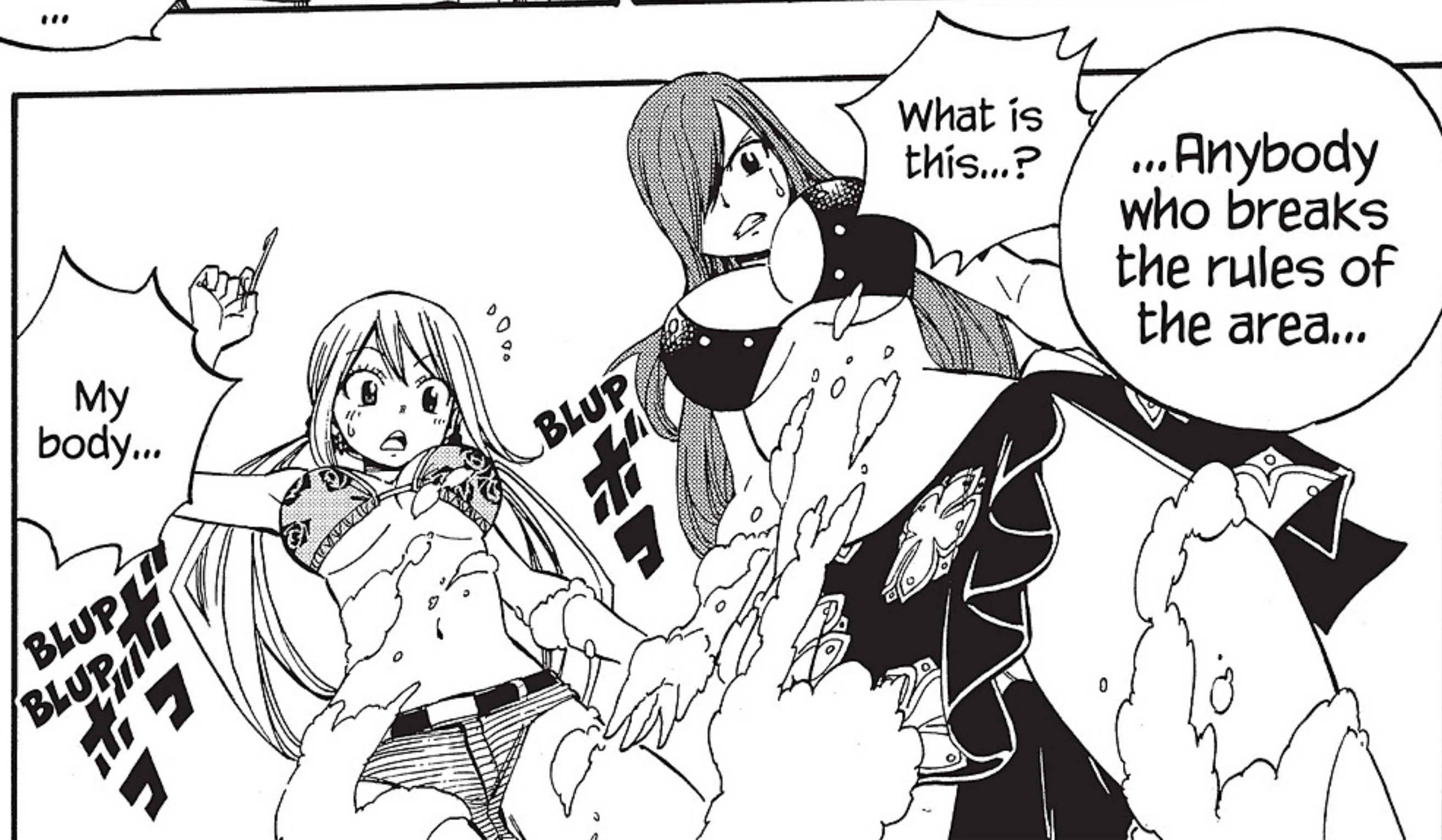
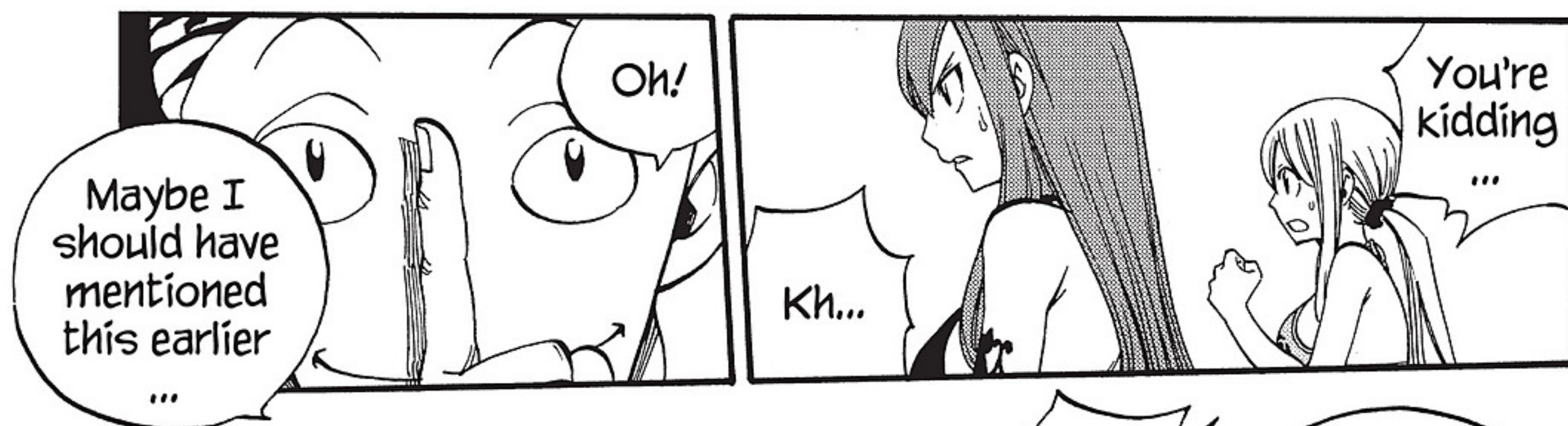
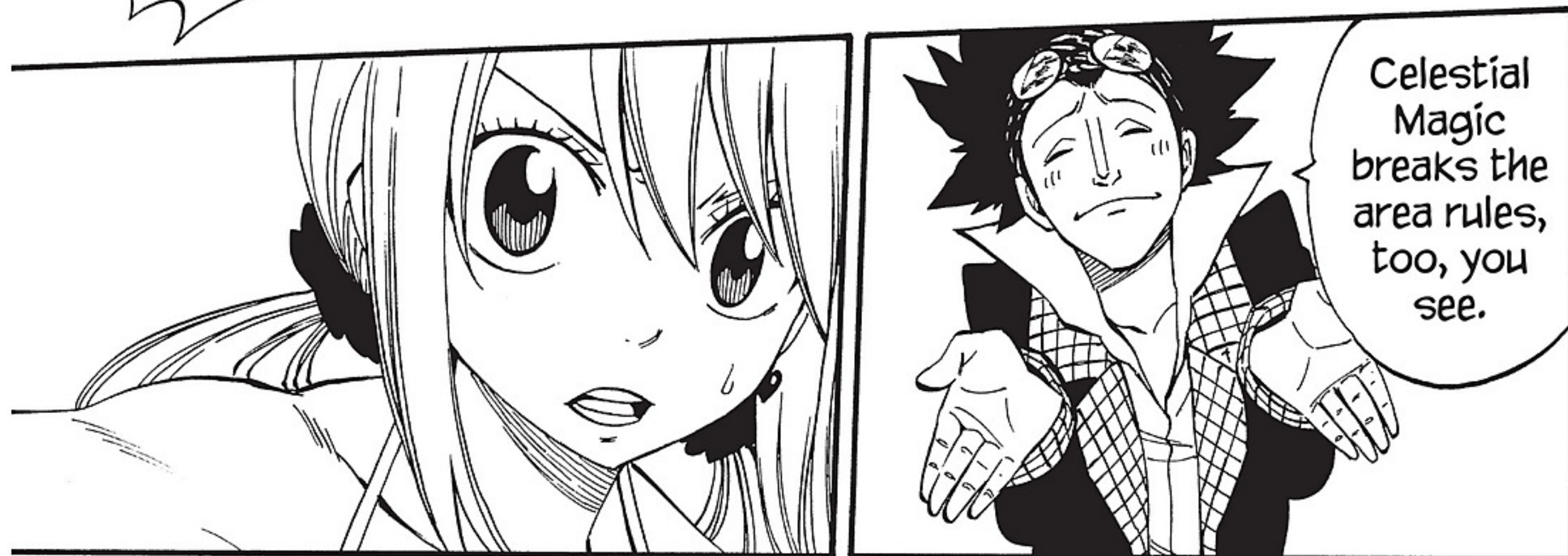
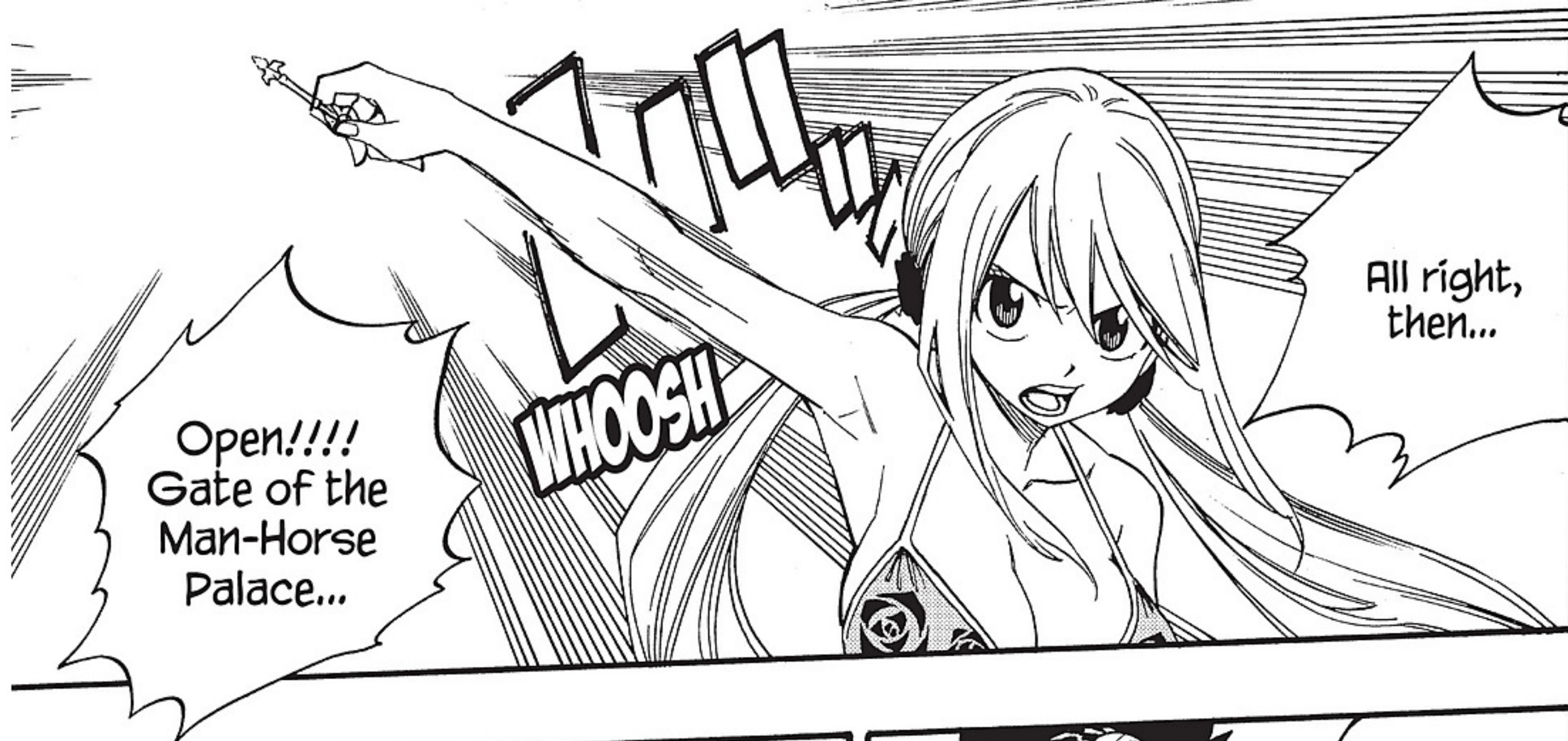


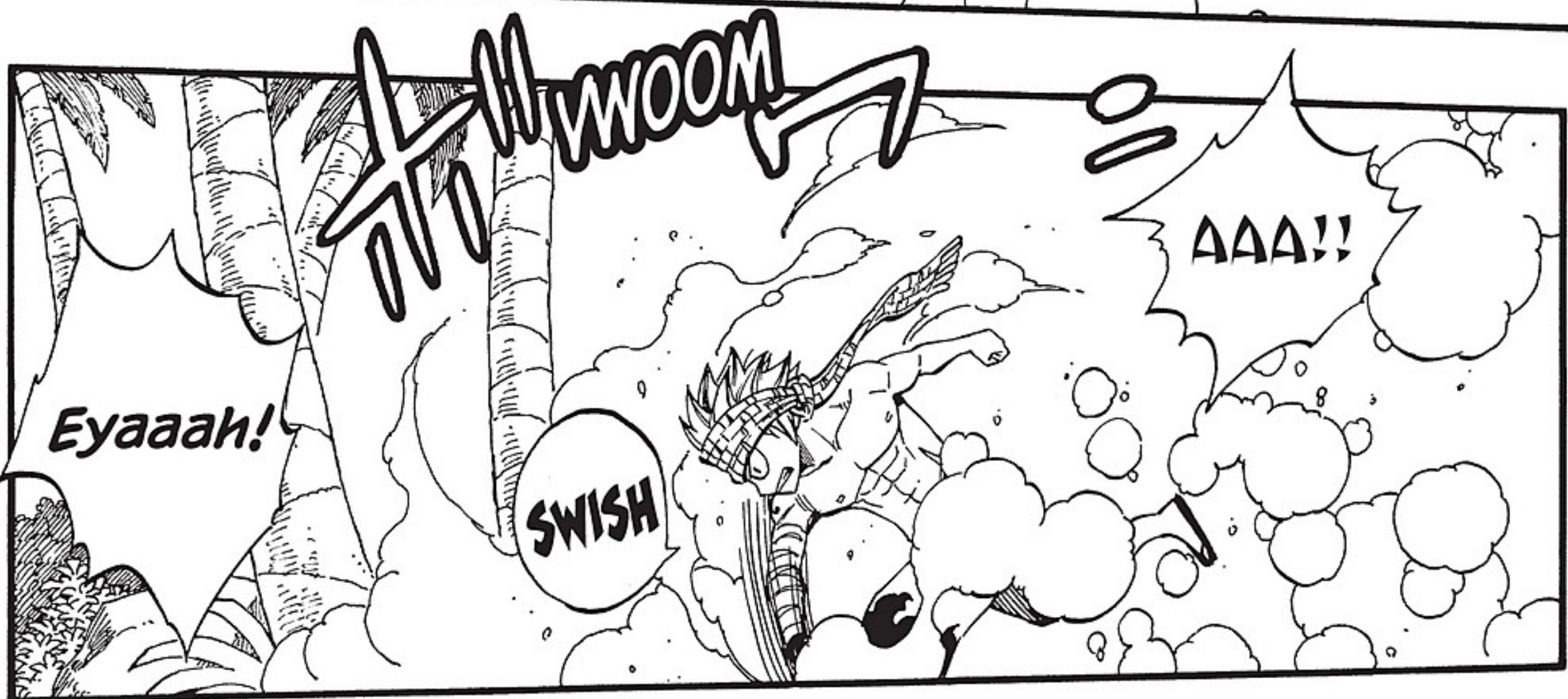
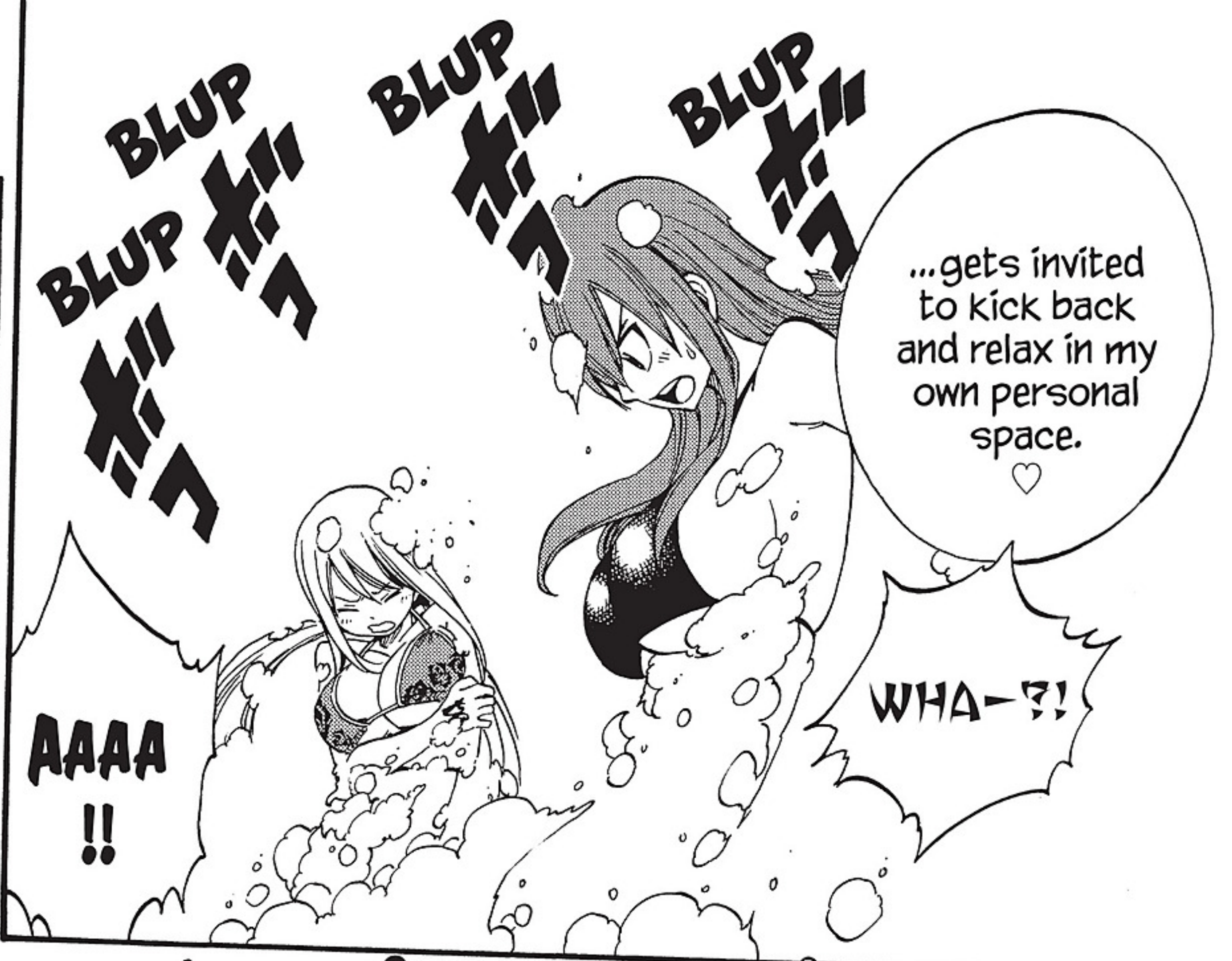
My
dream is
ruined... You
monster...

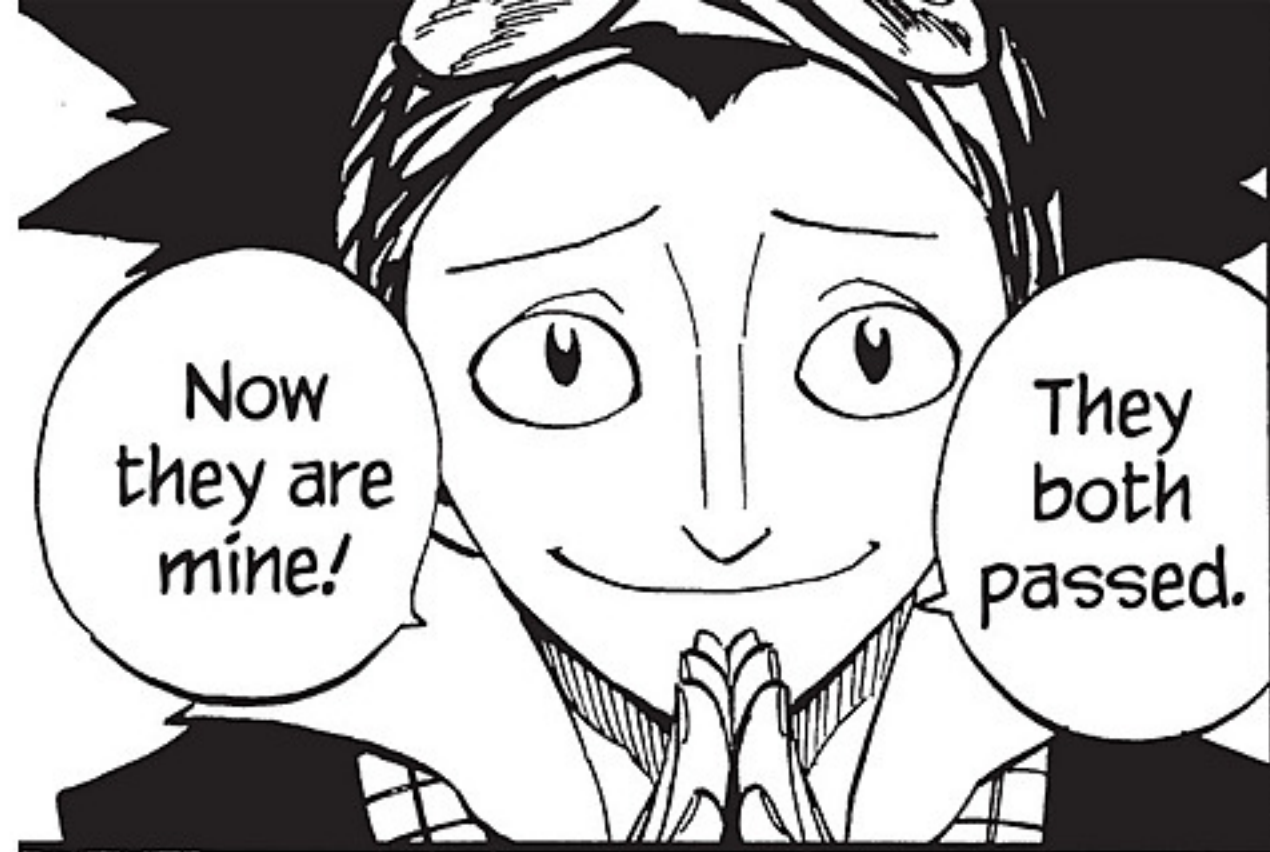






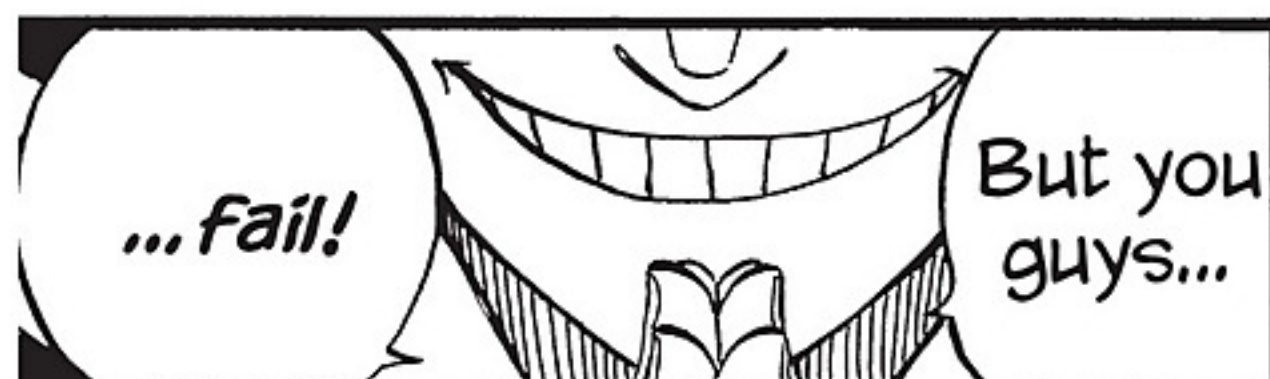






Now they are mine!

They both passed.



...fail!

But you guys...



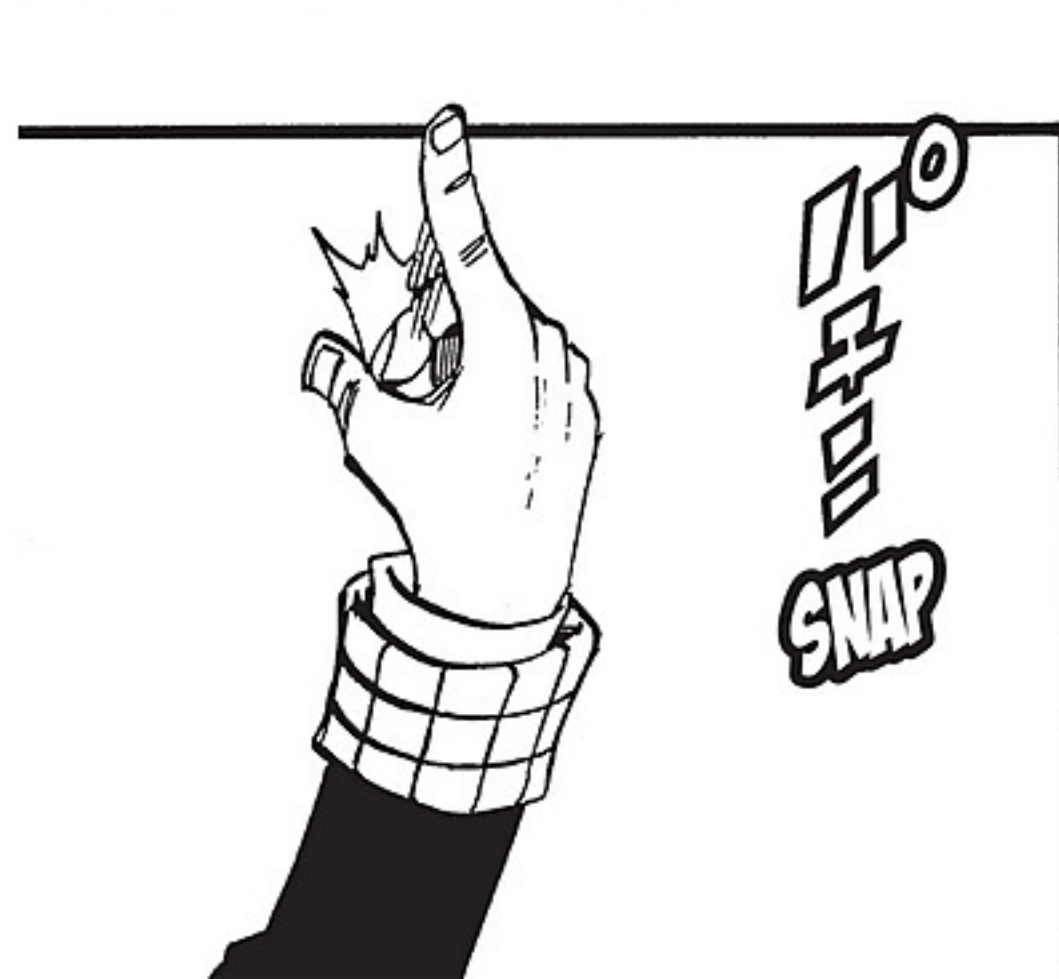
Didn't you hear?
I invited them to *my* place!



Hey, you!!!!
Where did you put Lucy and Erza?!!!



Absolute failure, you foolish *jeeerks!*



SNAP



Is this his evil twin or what?!



Yer all in it
together,
right?!

WHUD!



This loser
tried to
do spatial
magic in *my*
territory!



NGH...

URG...

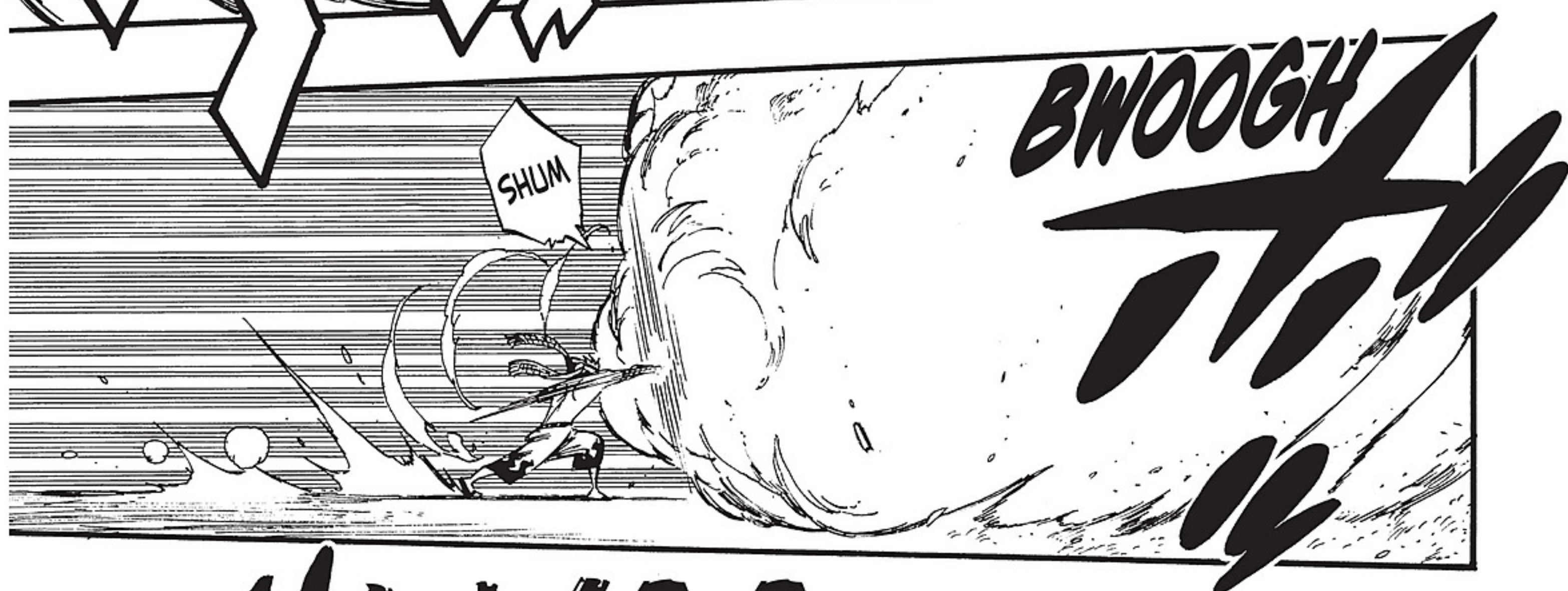
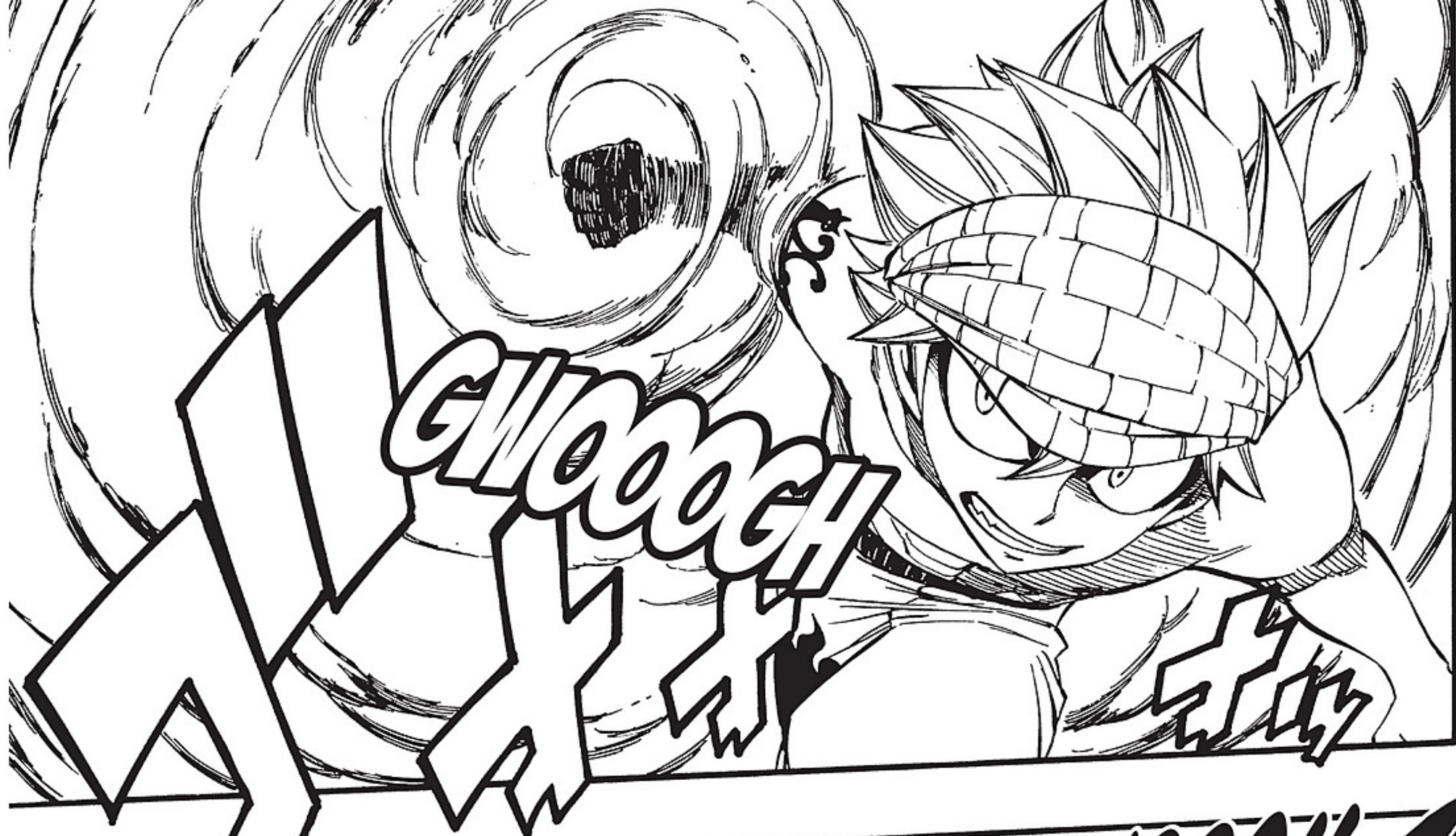


Mest!

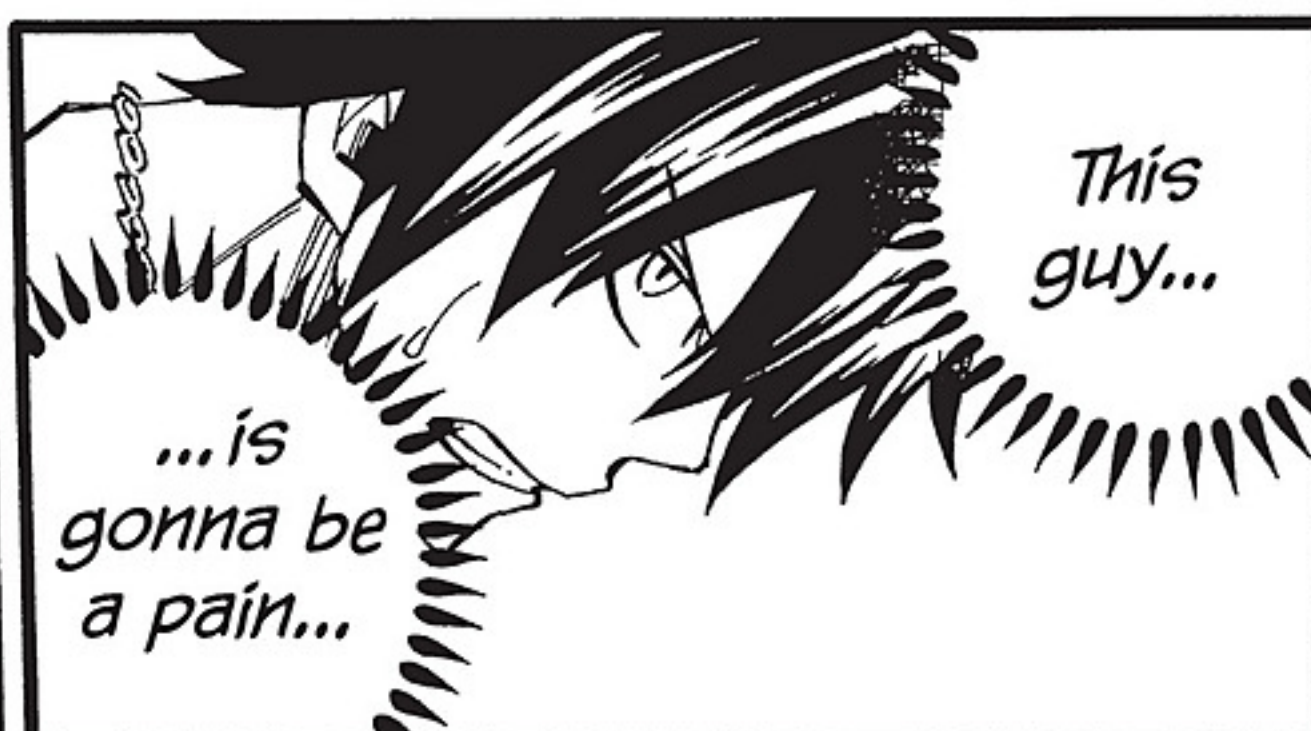
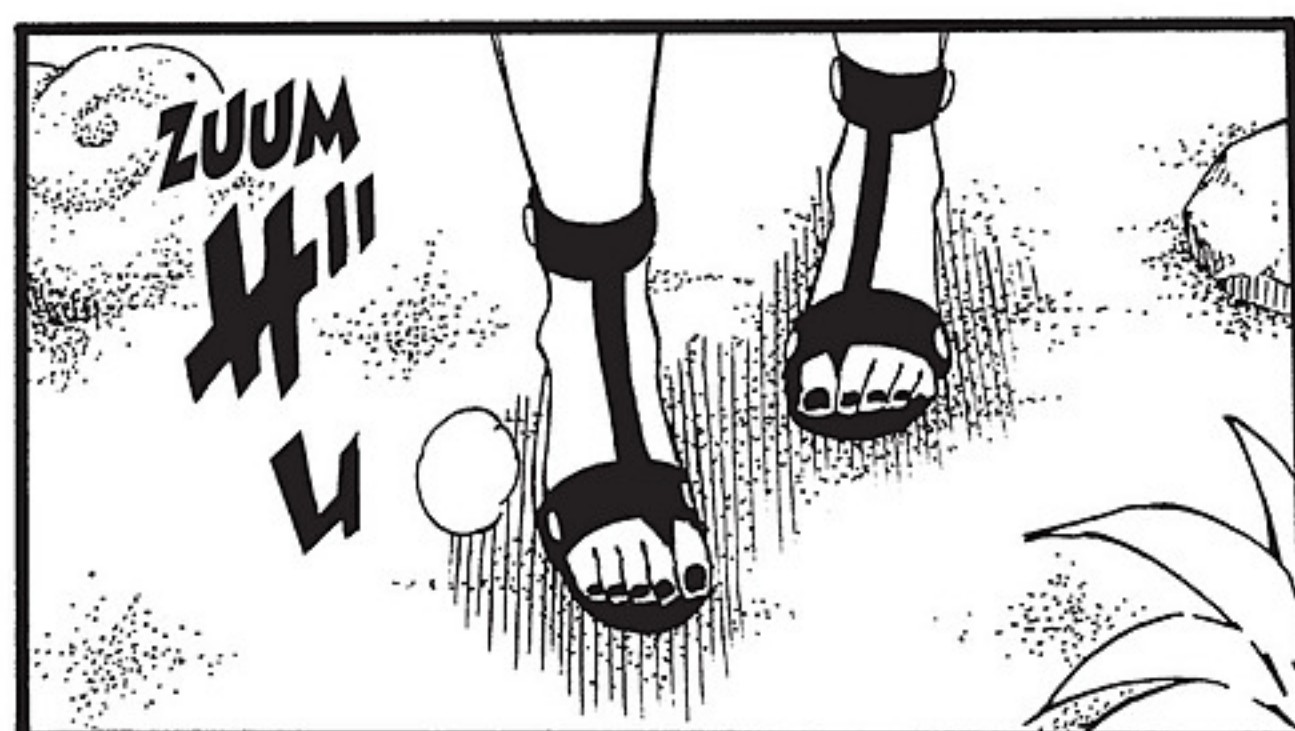
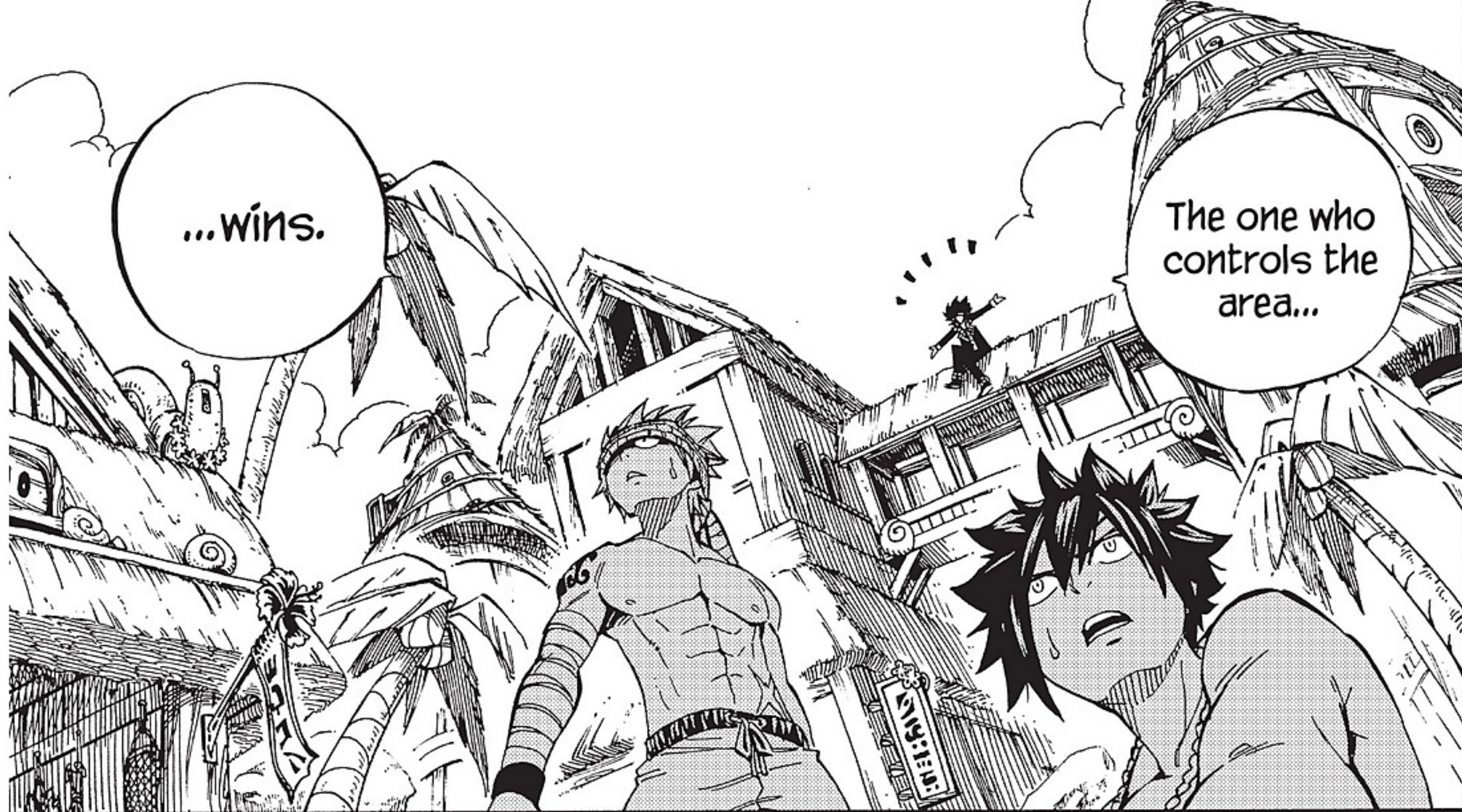


All you guys
better keep
your filthy paws
off o' that
kinda magic!
Ya hear?!

**And he
fails!
Dirty
creep!!**









Could you
stop that?
It gives me
the creeps.

Oh, a
thousand
pardons,
Brandish-
sama! And I
must say, you
always get
the highest
grades!!

ALBARETH
IMPERIAL ARMY
SPRIGGAN 12

BRANDISH MLI **H**

...this
overwhelming
aura of
magical
power...!!!

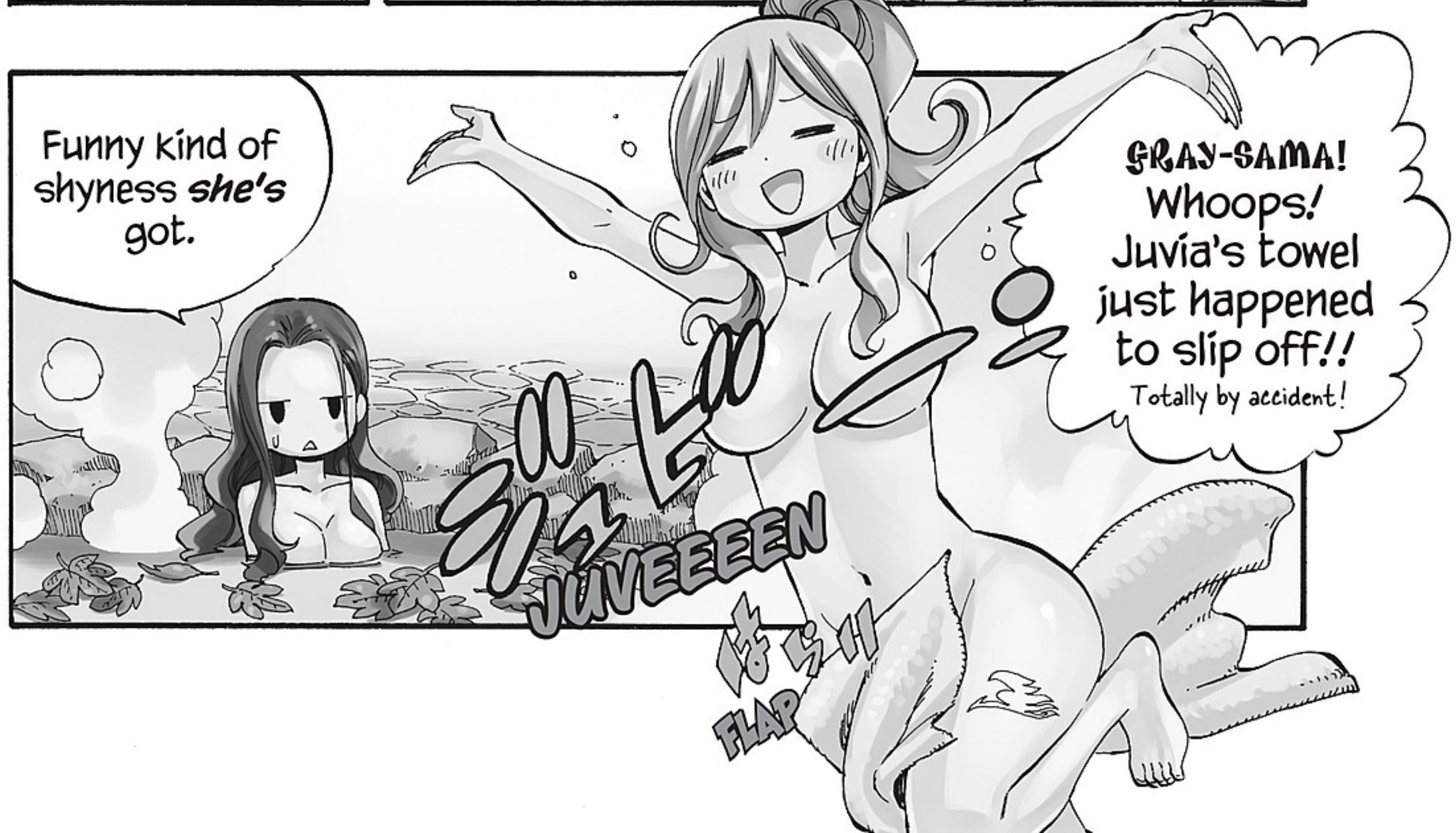
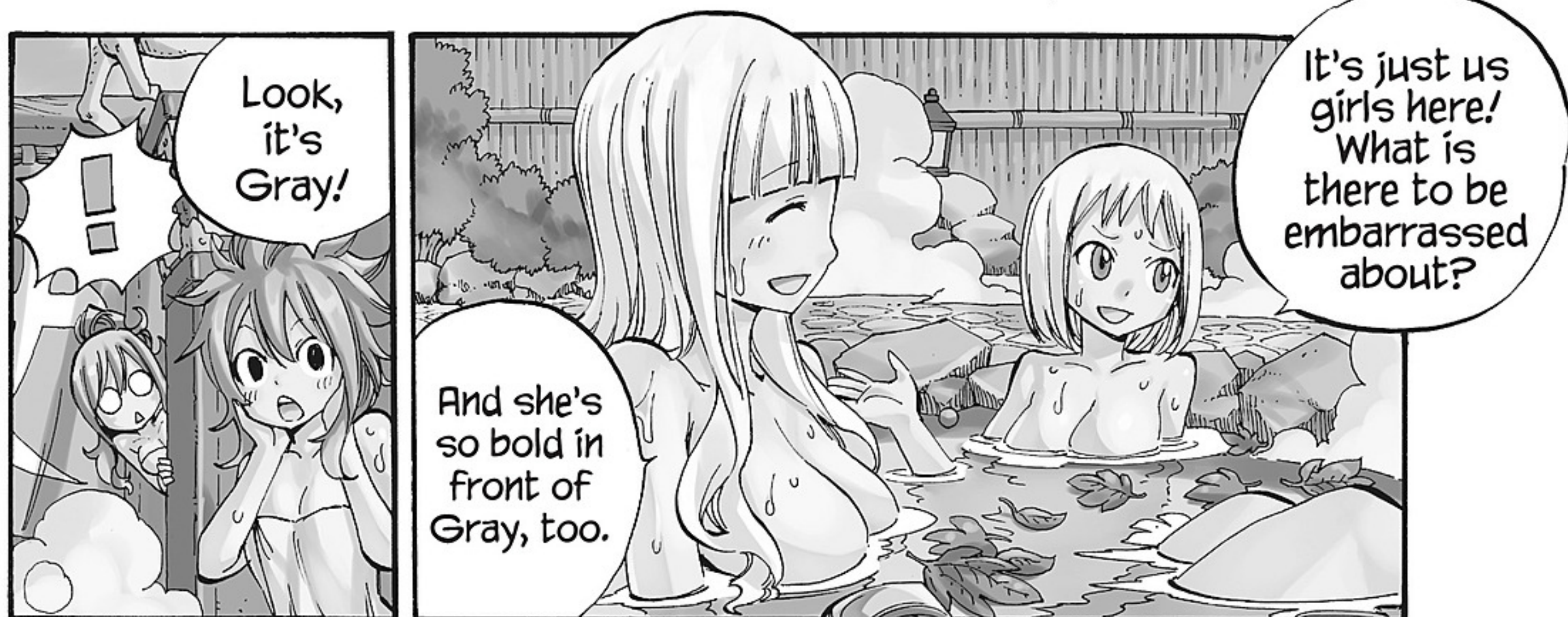
What is
this...

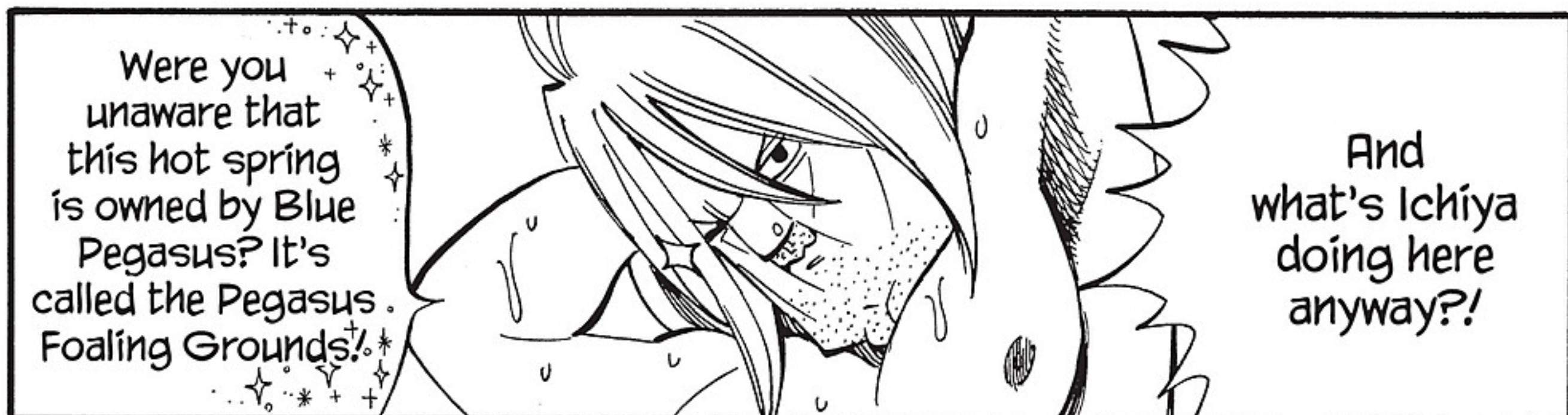
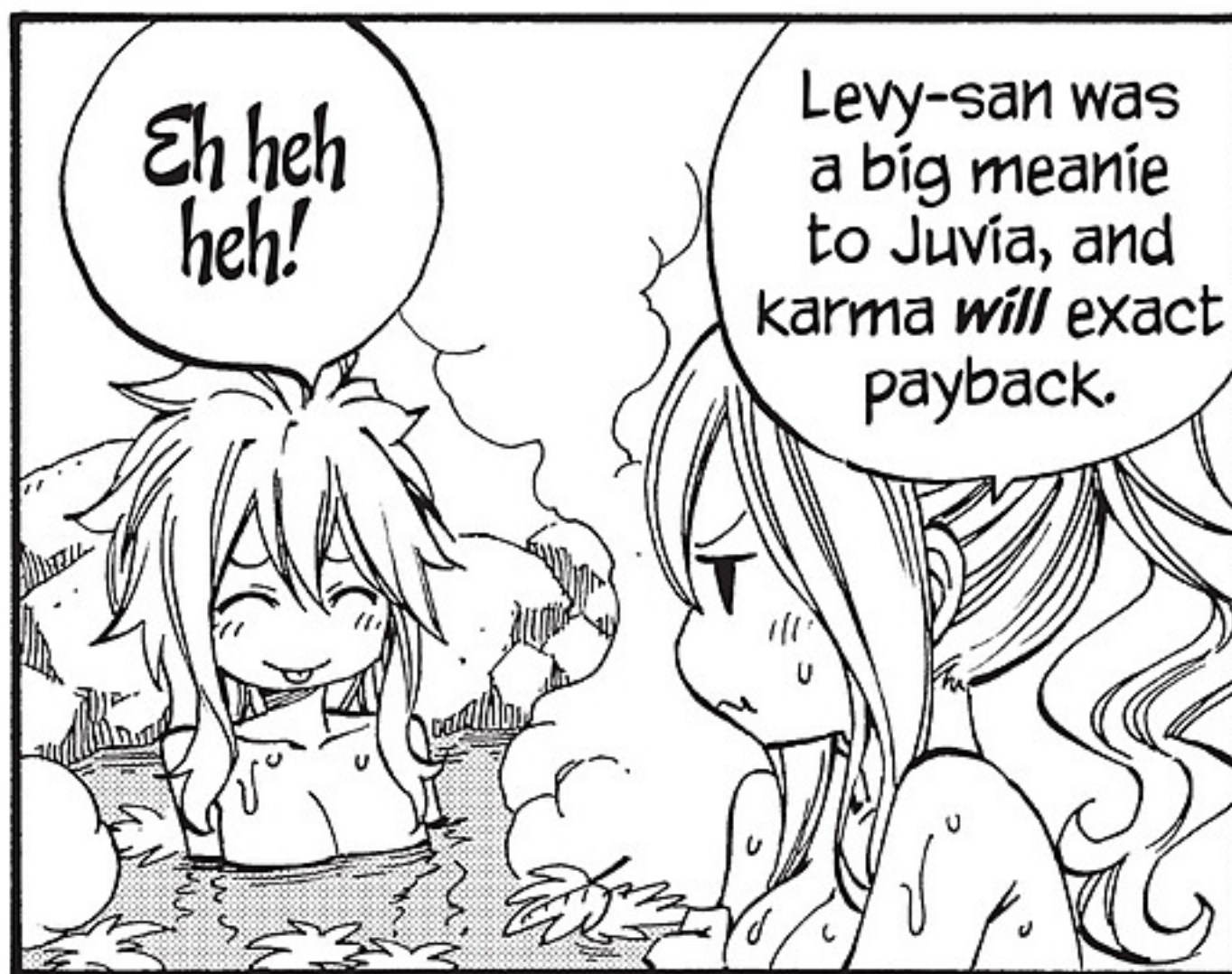
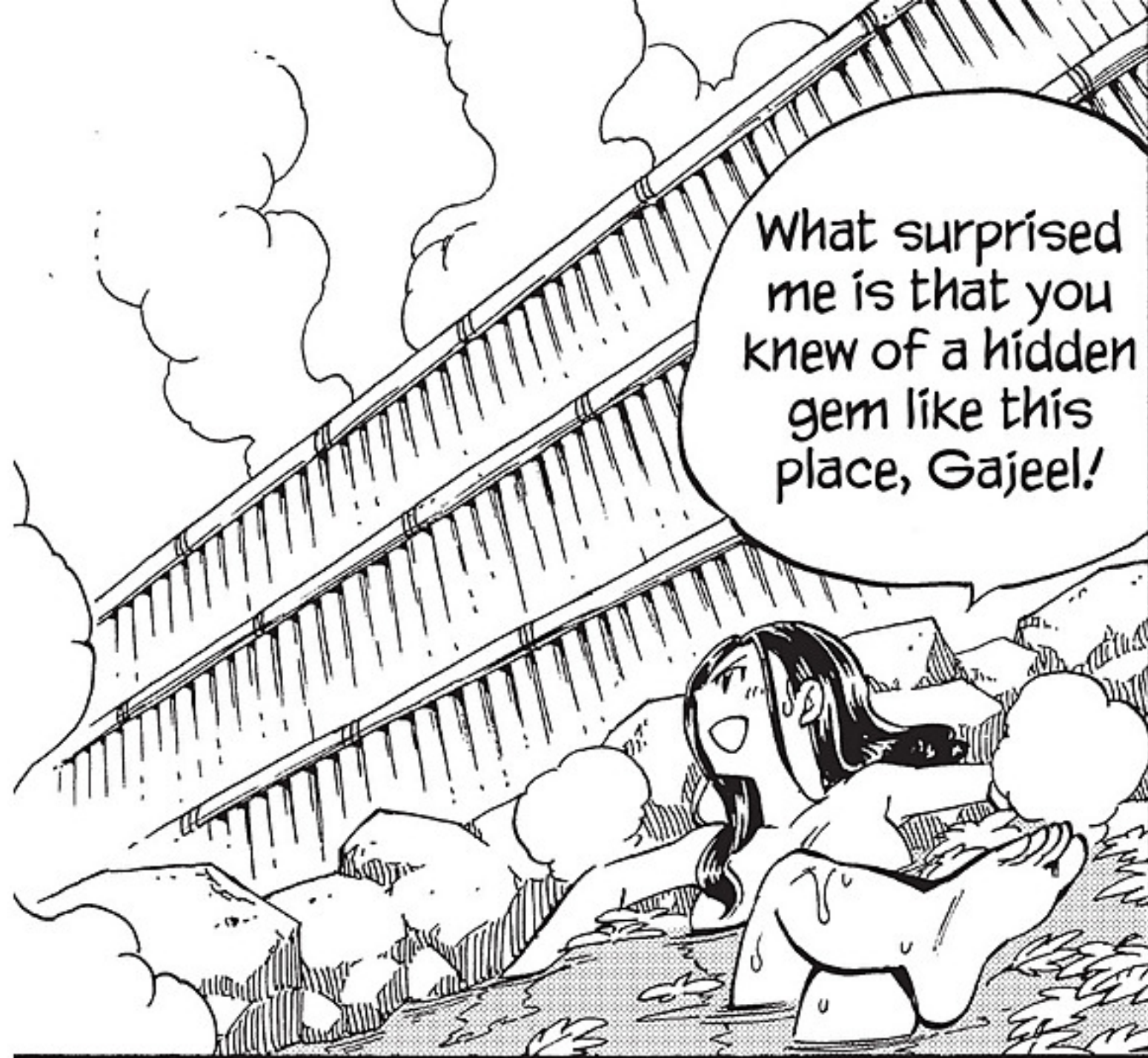
Chapter 443:
And the Land Just Vanished





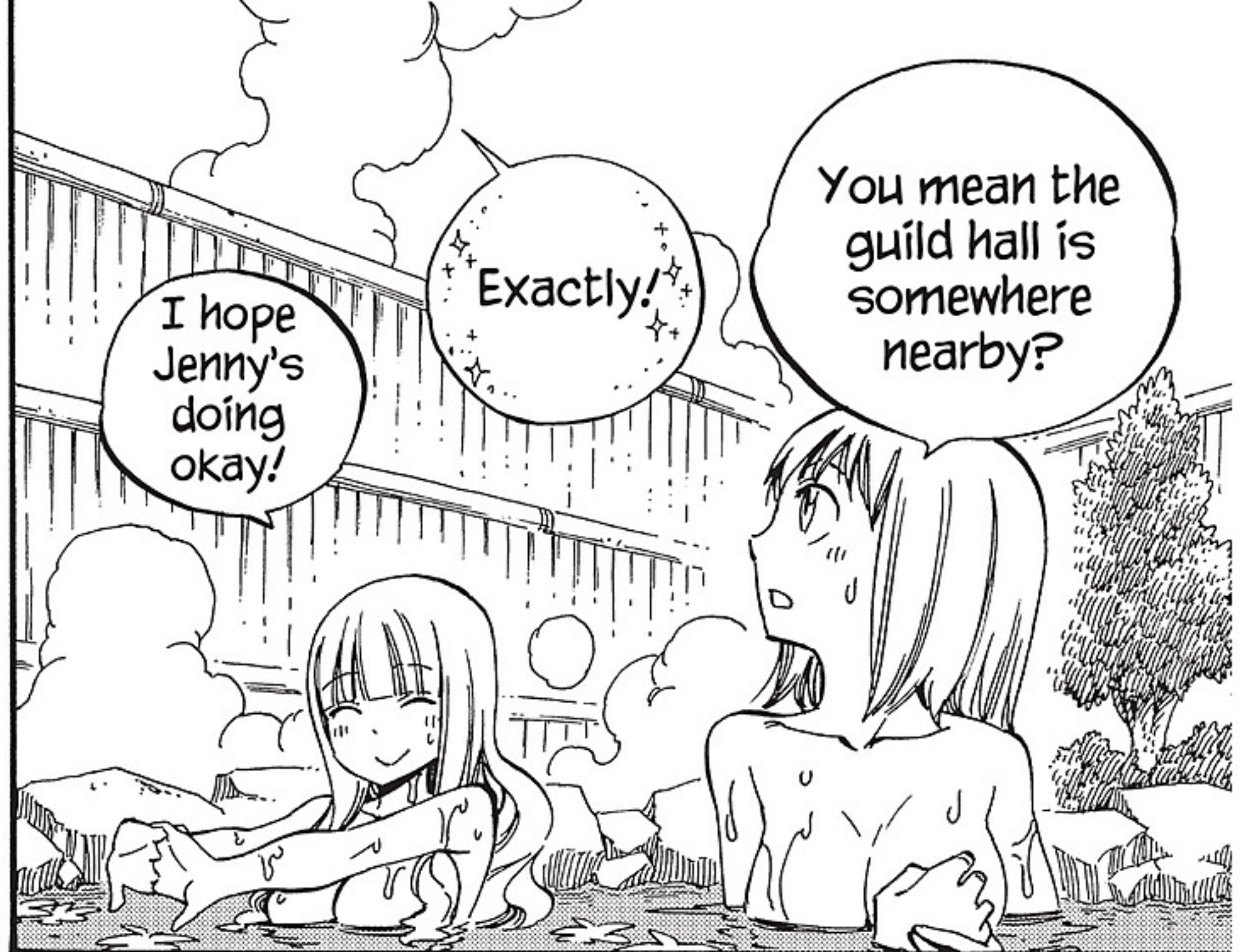
*Curtain: Women's







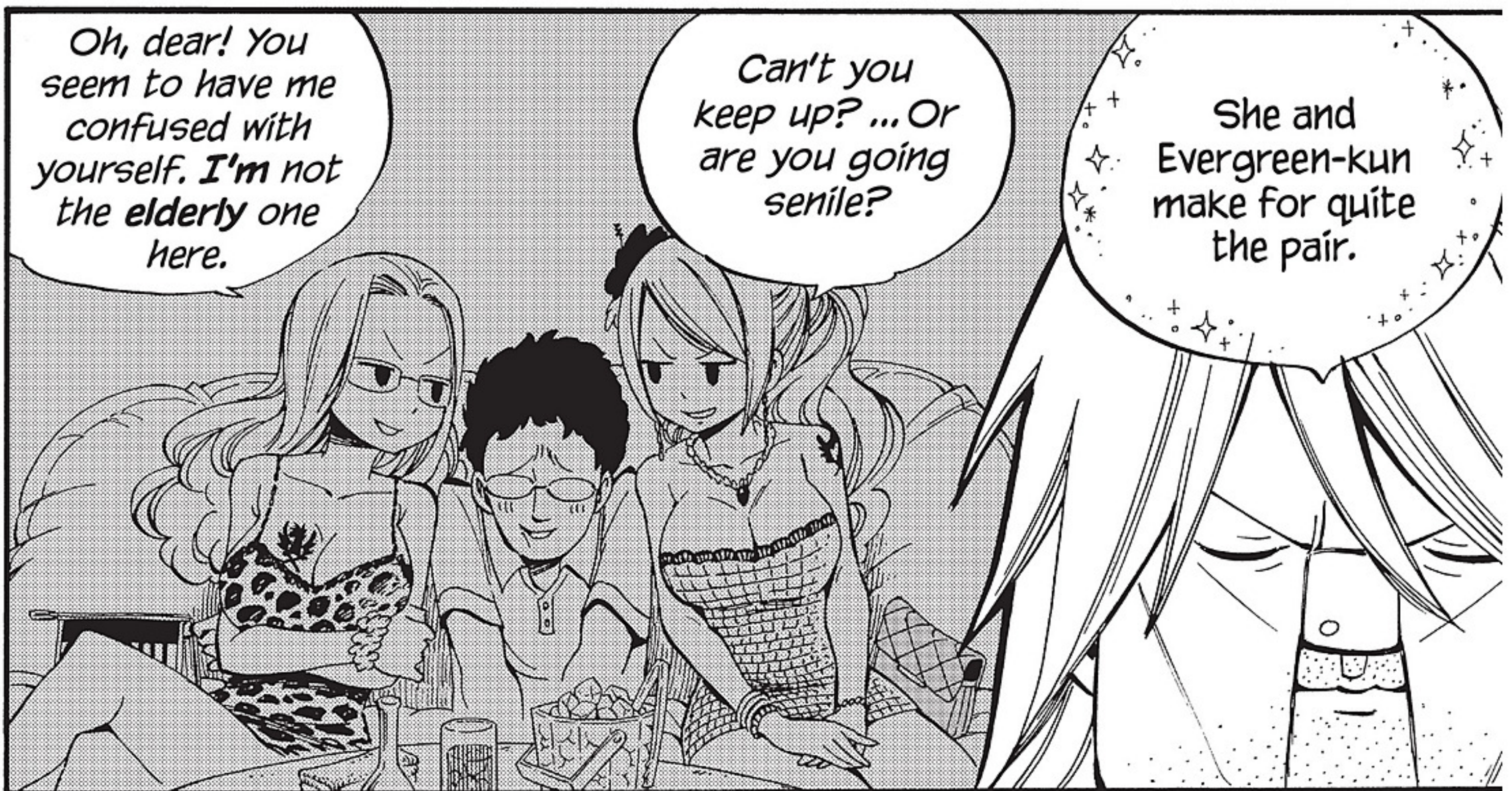
Yes. She has as fine a perfume as ever.



I hope Jenny's doing okay!

Exactly!

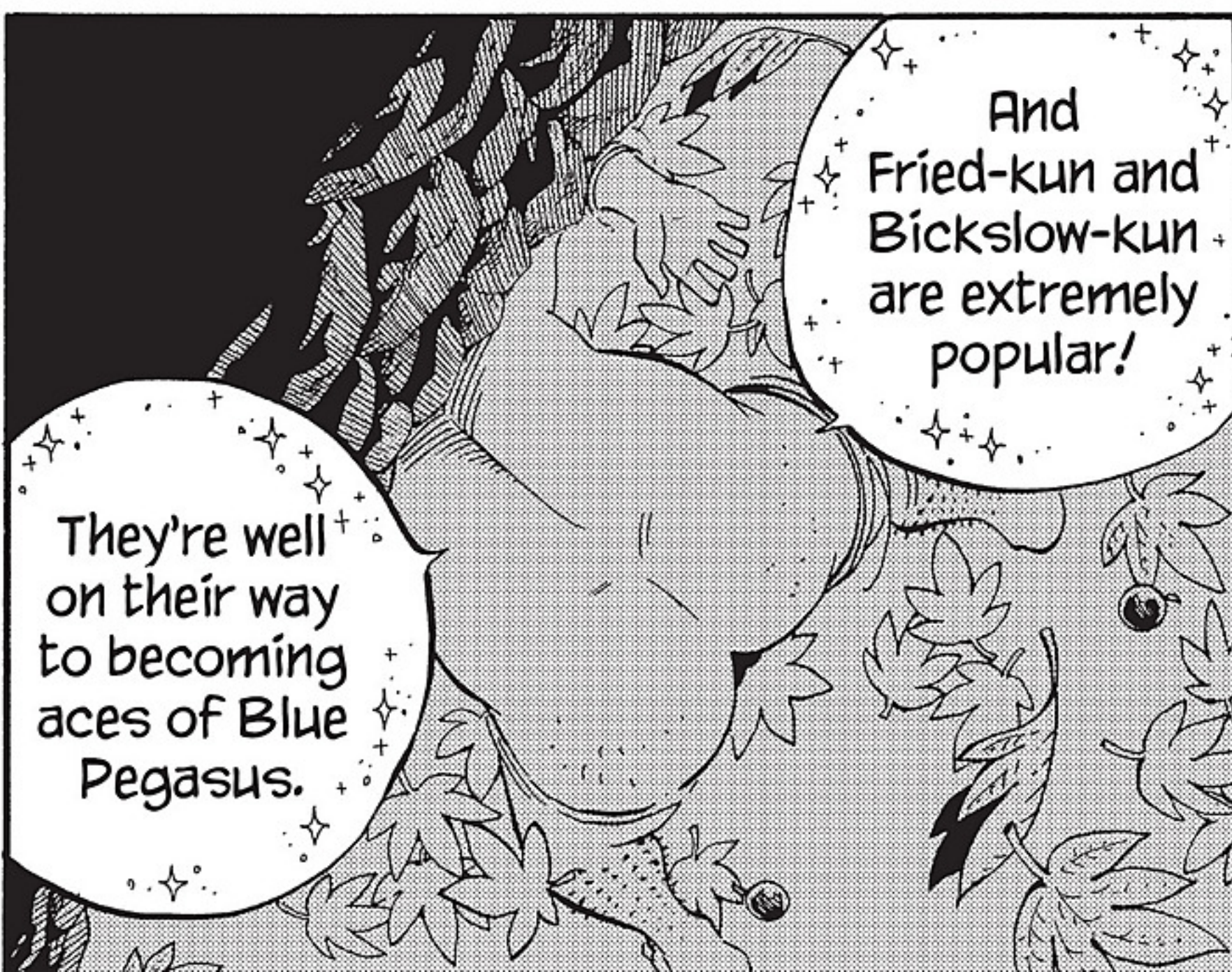
You mean the guild hall is somewhere nearby?



Oh, dear! You seem to have me confused with yourself. I'm not the *elderly* one here.

Can't you keep up? ... Or are you going senile?

She and Evergreen-kun make for quite the pair.



They're well on their way to becoming aces of Blue Pegasus.

And Fried-kun and Bickslow-kun are extremely popular!

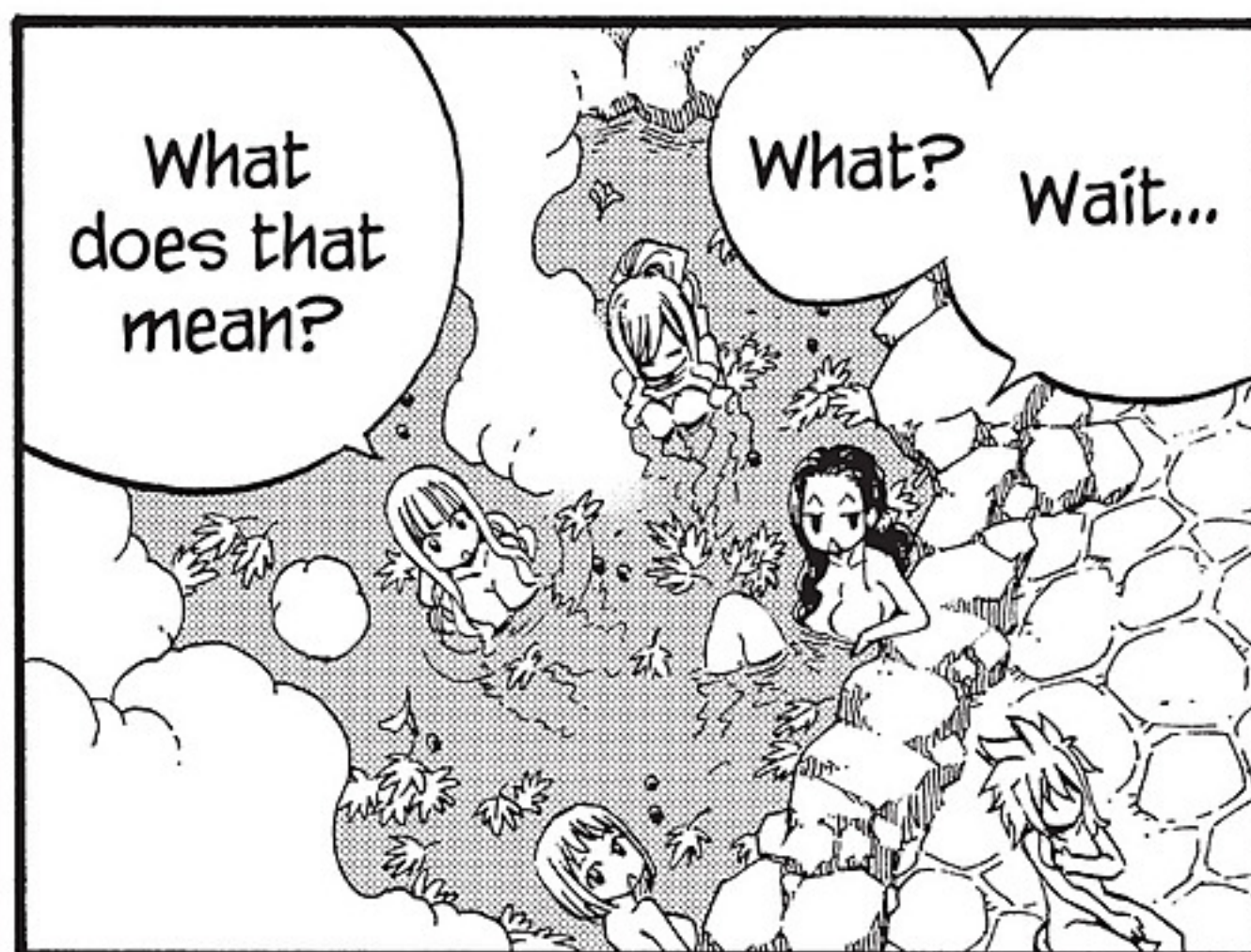


Huh?



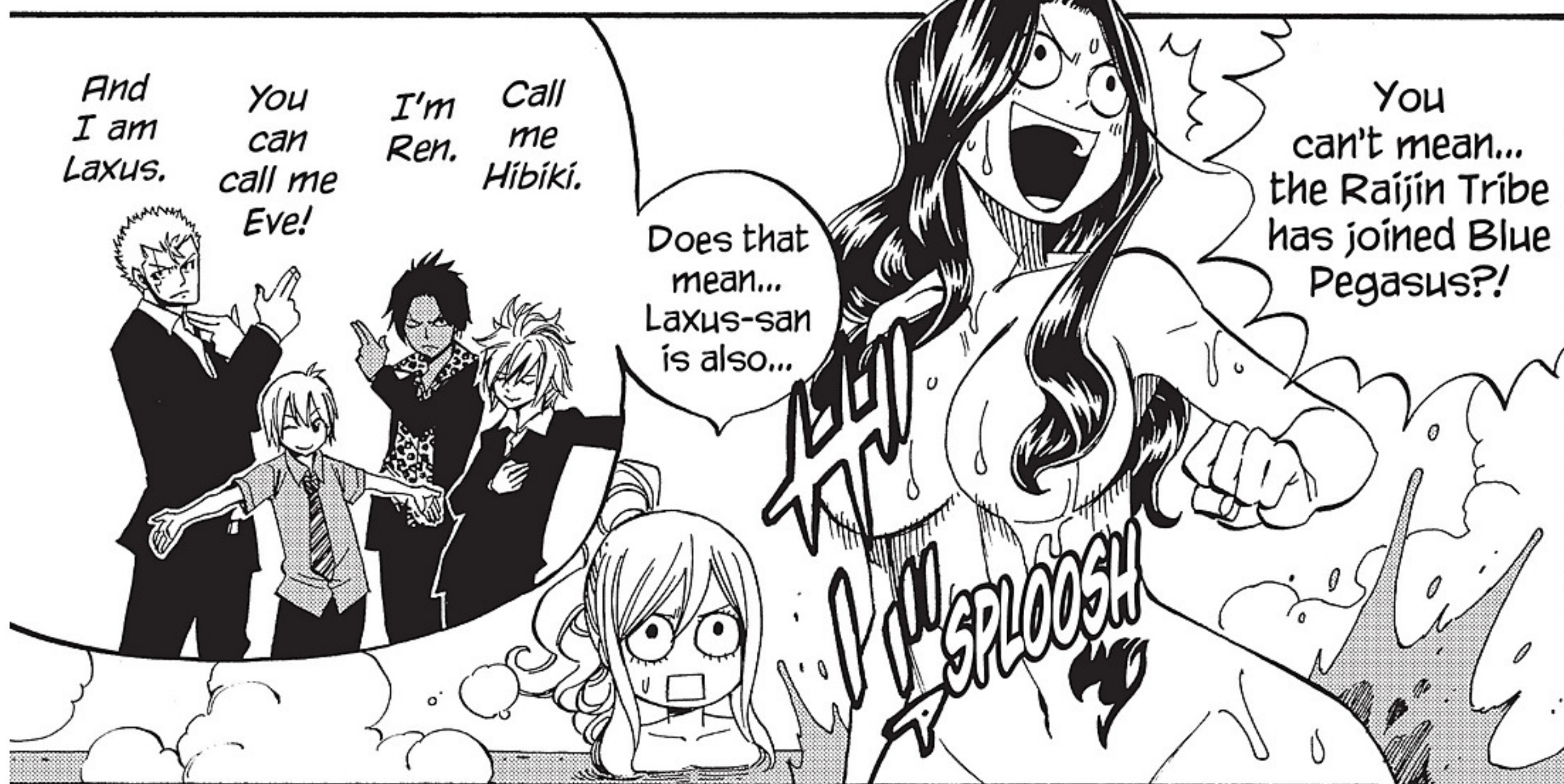
!!

You jerk! You ruined my surprise!!!



What does that mean?

What? Wait...



And I am Laxus.

You can call me Eve!

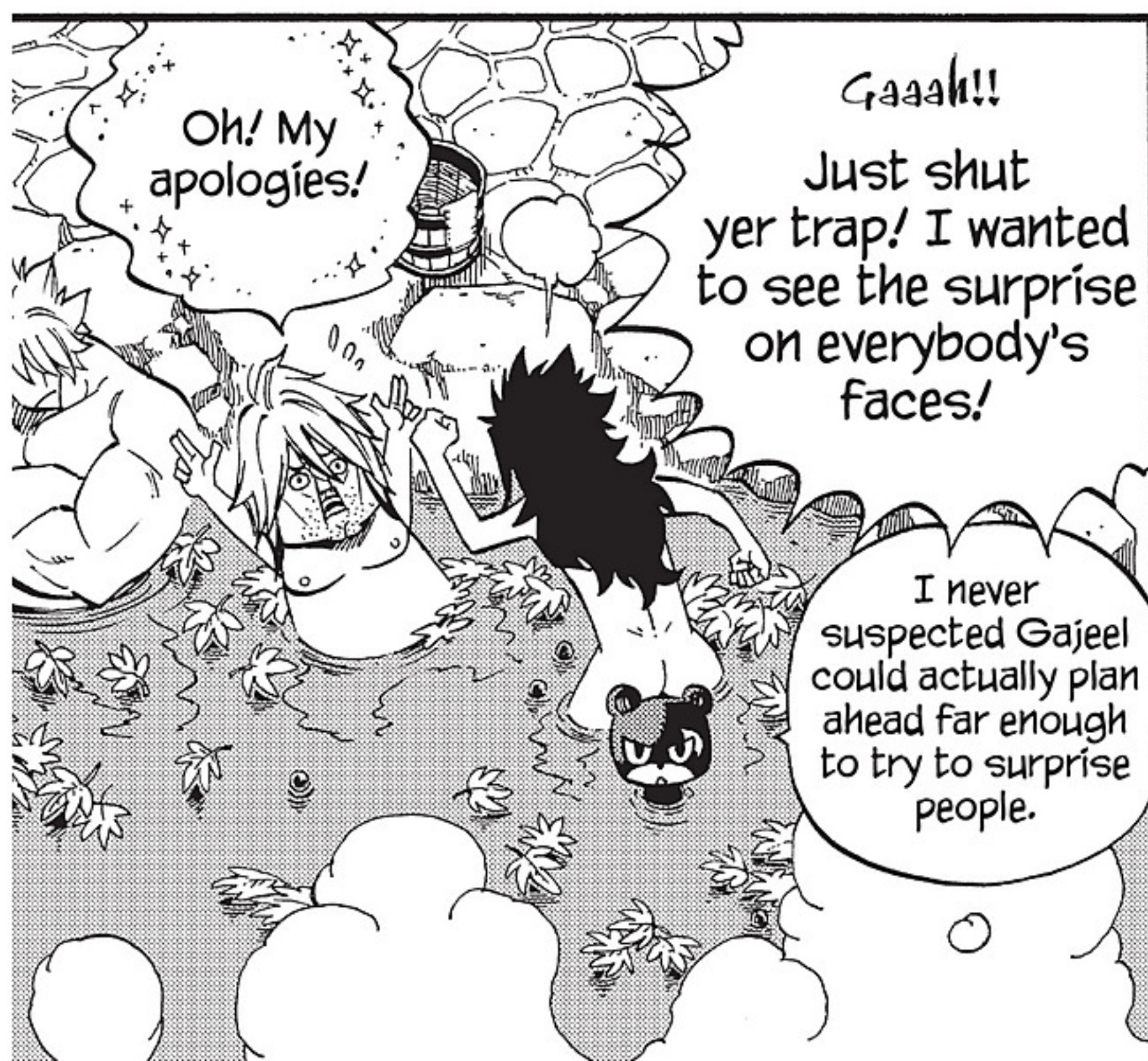
I'm Ren.

Call me Hibiki.

Does that mean... Laxus-san is also...

You can't mean... the Raijin Tribe has joined Blue Pegasus?!

SPLOOSH



Oh! My apologies!

Gaaah!!

Just shut yer trap! I wanted to see the surprise on everybody's faces!

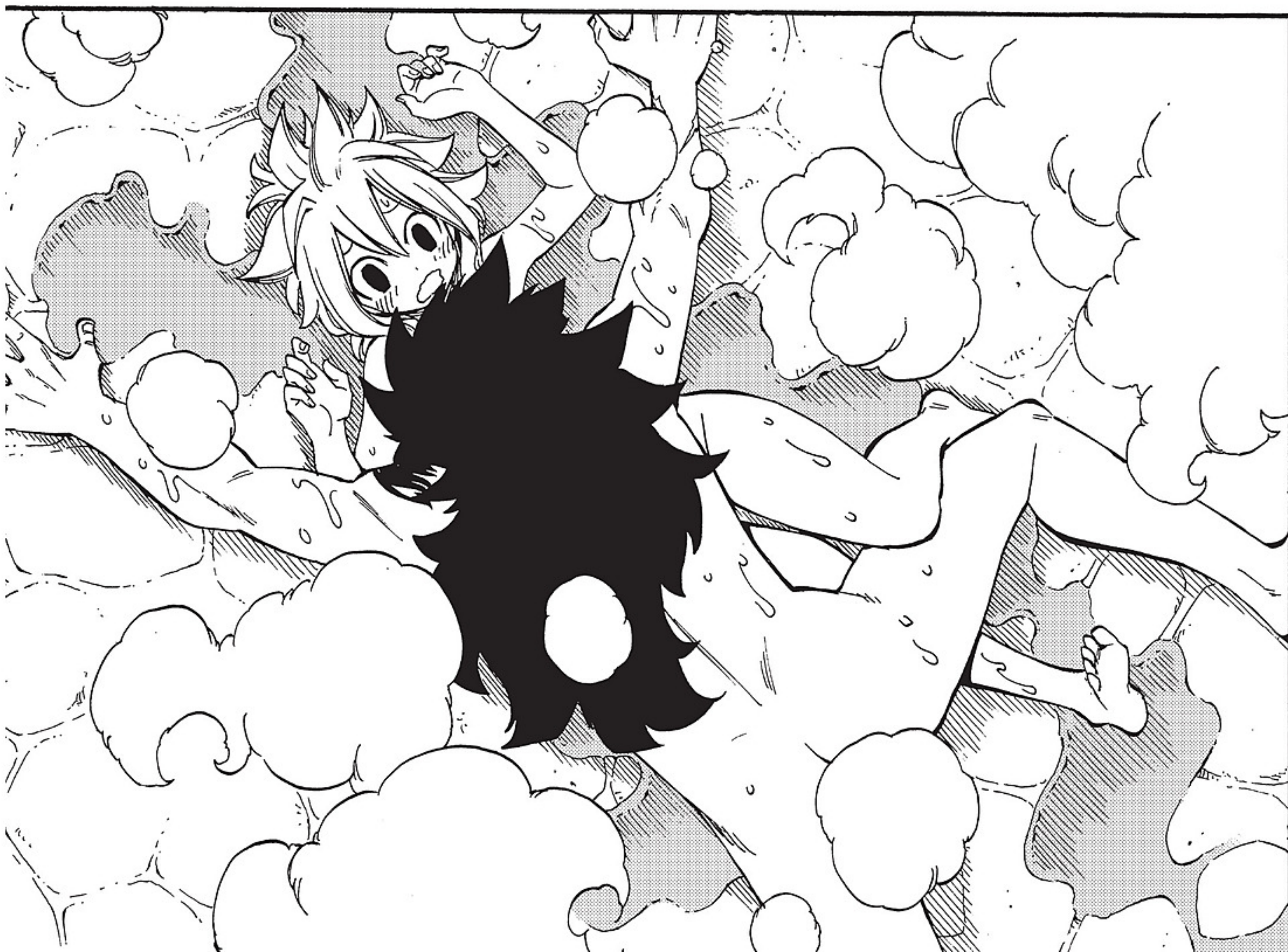
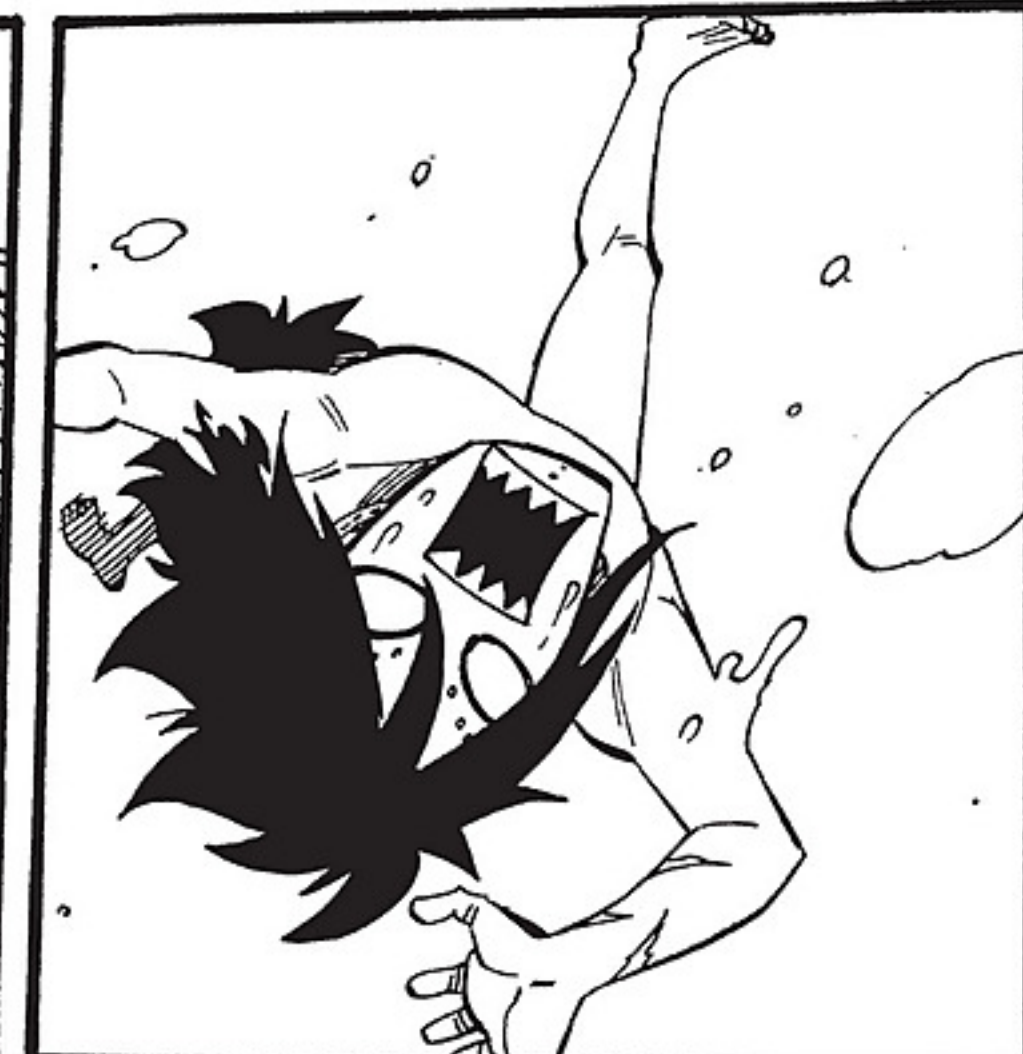
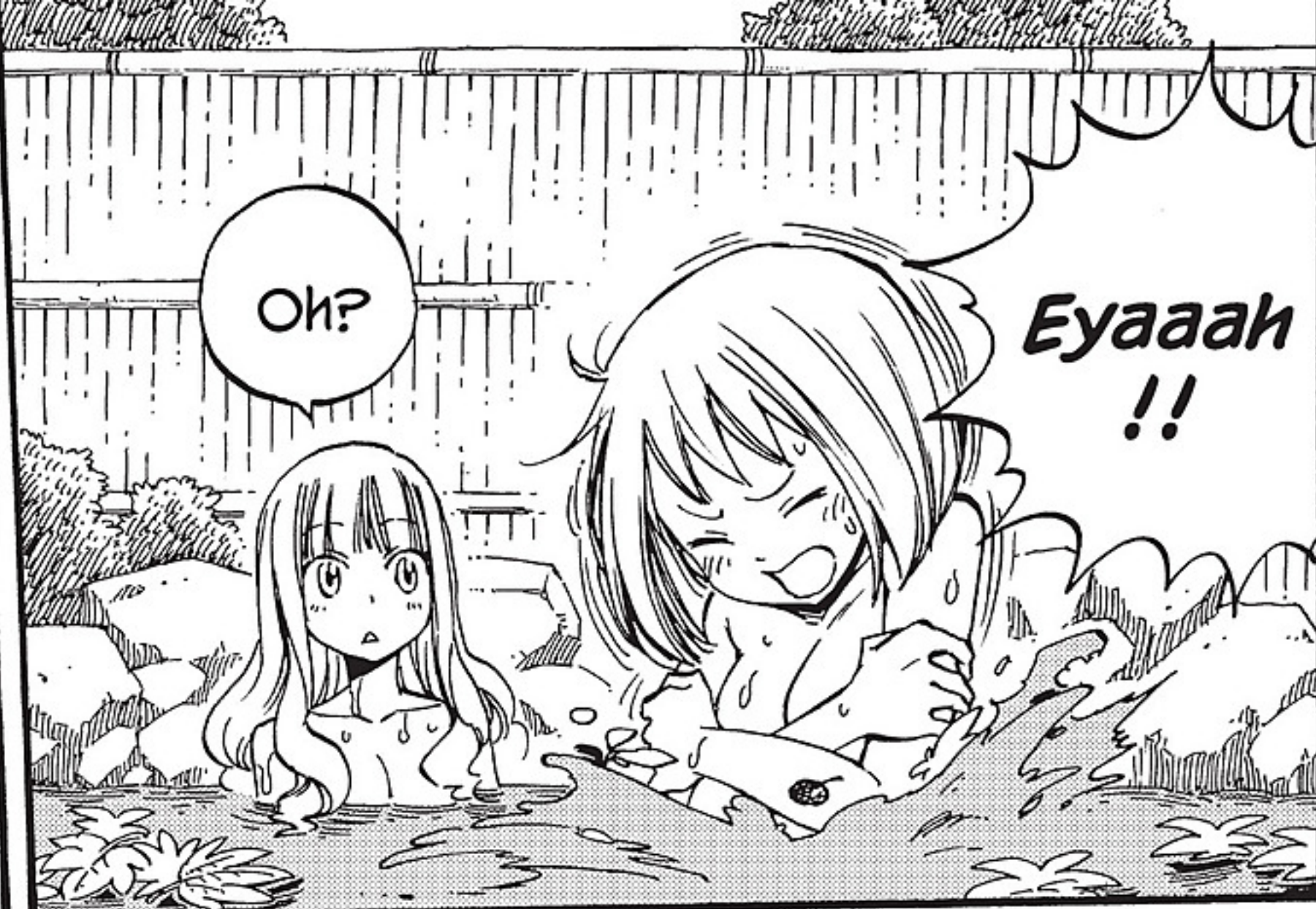
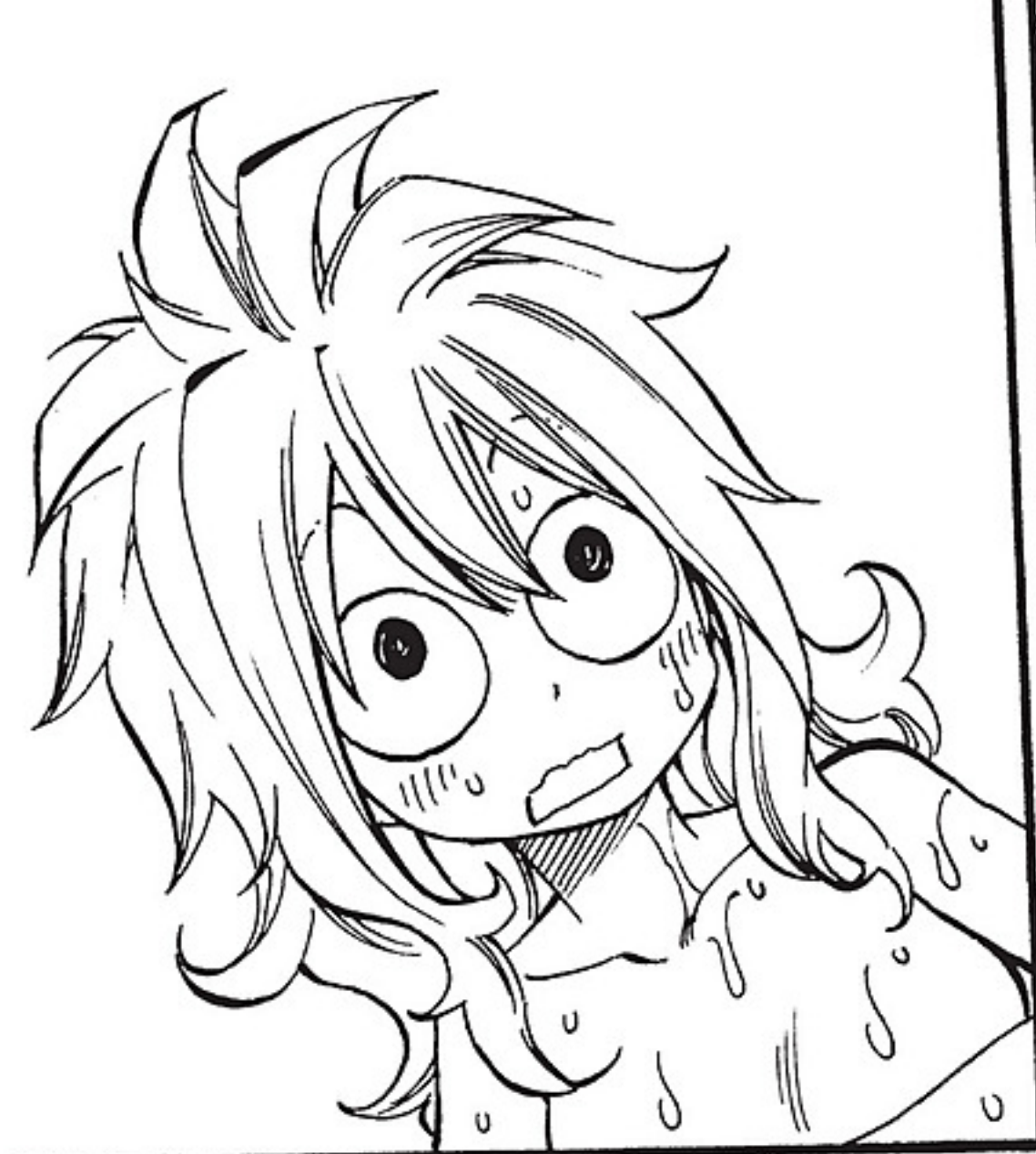
I never suspected Gajeel could actually plan ahead far enough to try to surprise people.

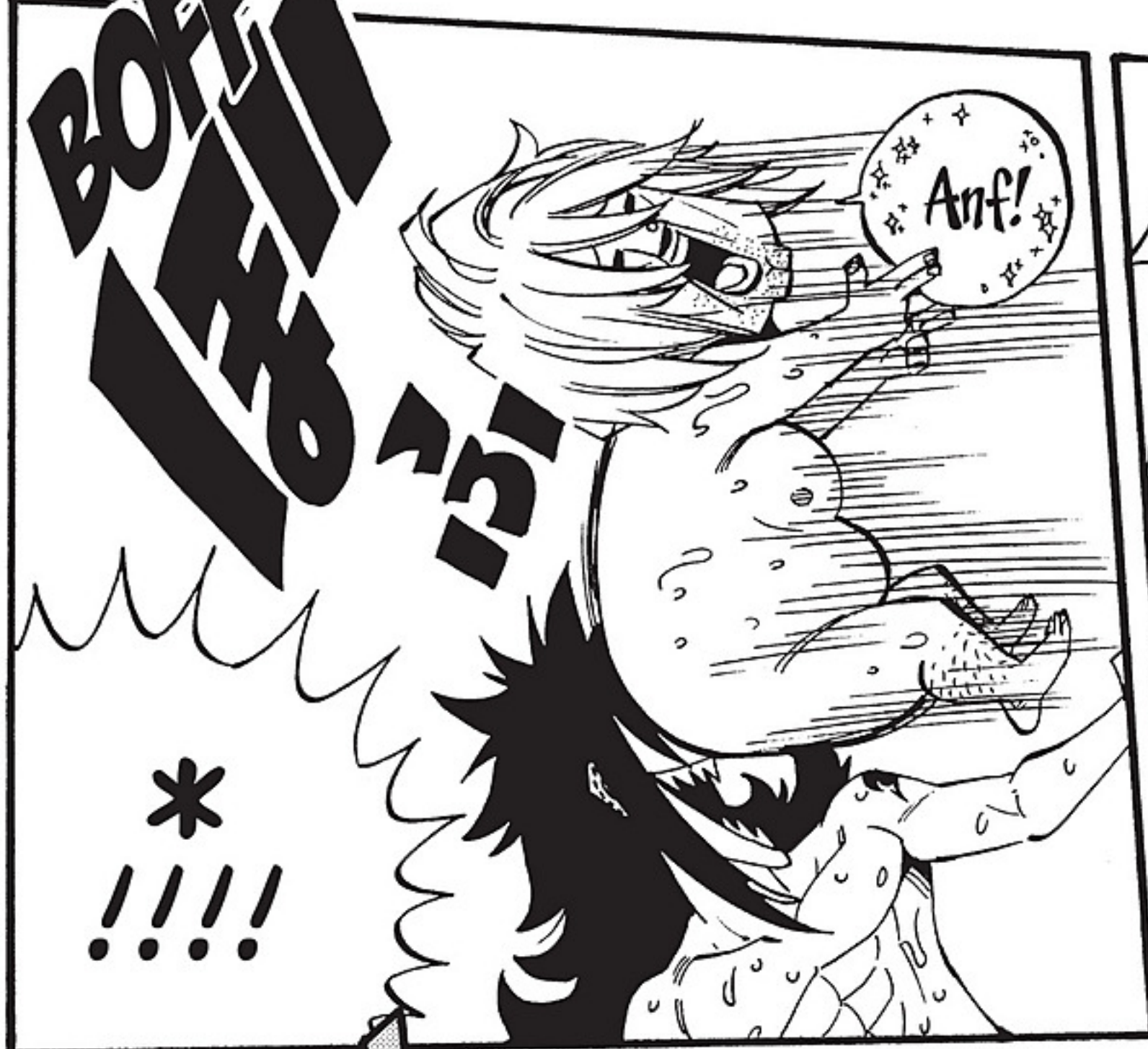
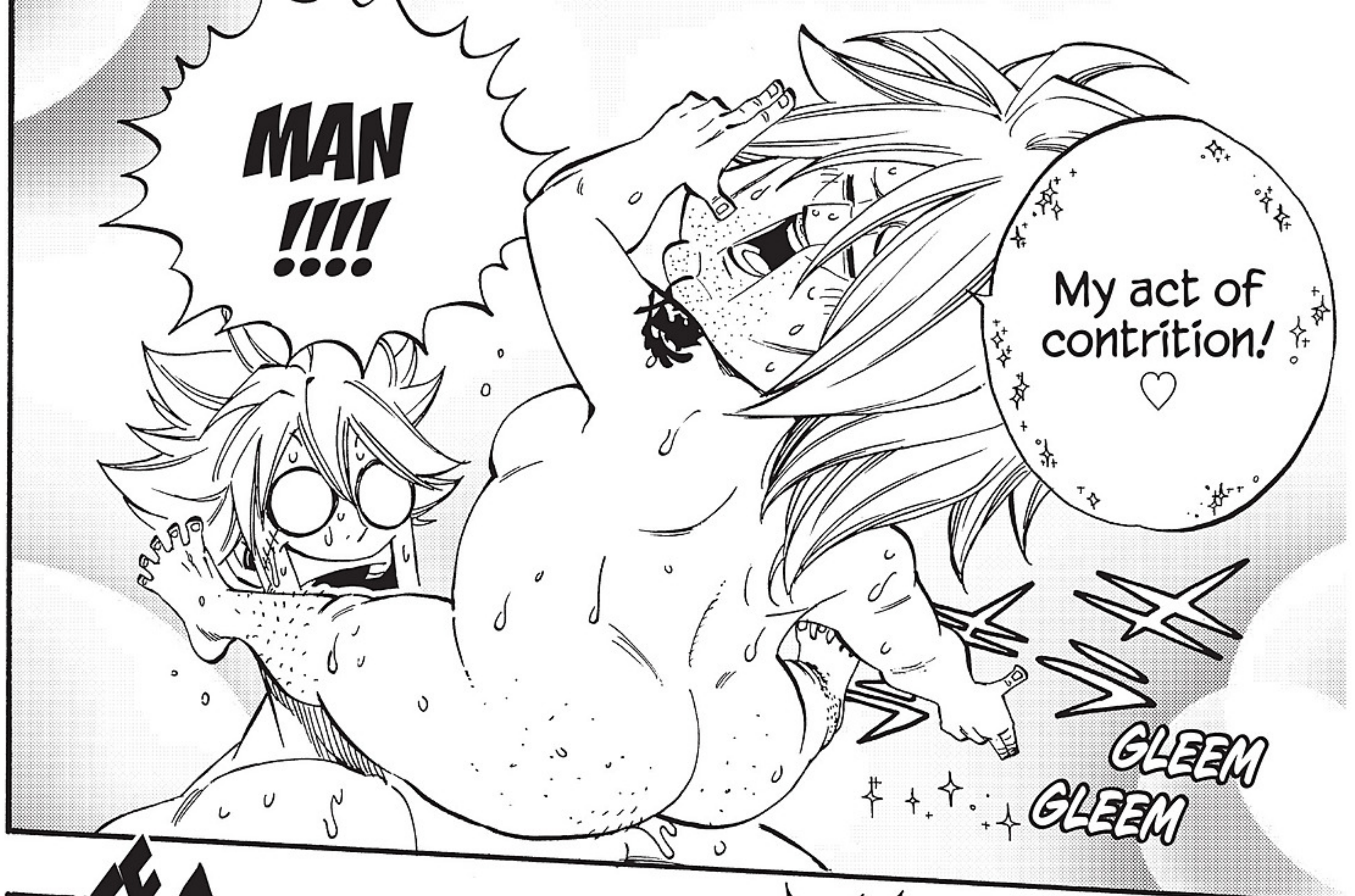


I believe he mentioned a "training journey" or some such pursuit.

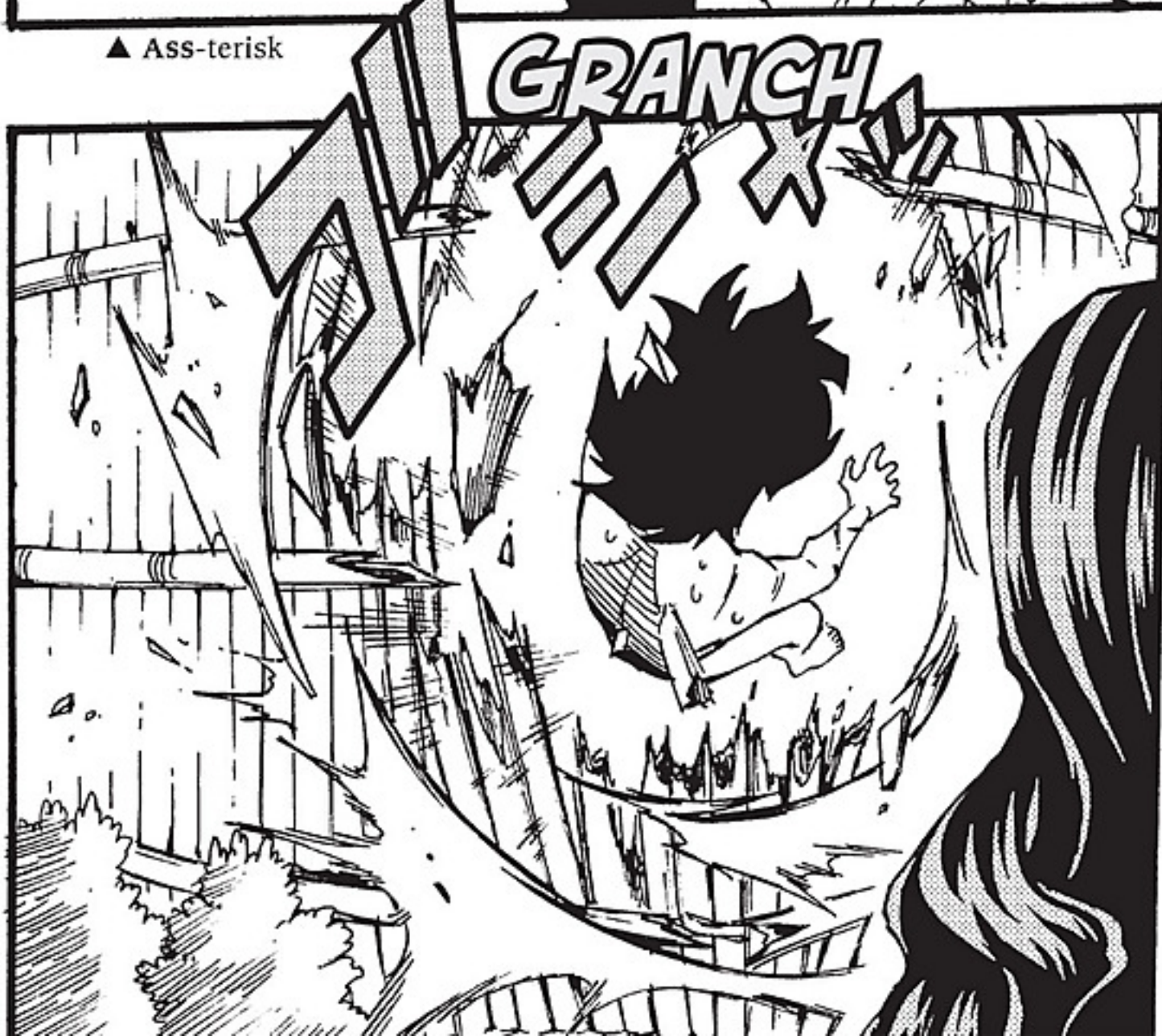
Laxus-kun hardly ever shows his face in the hall.

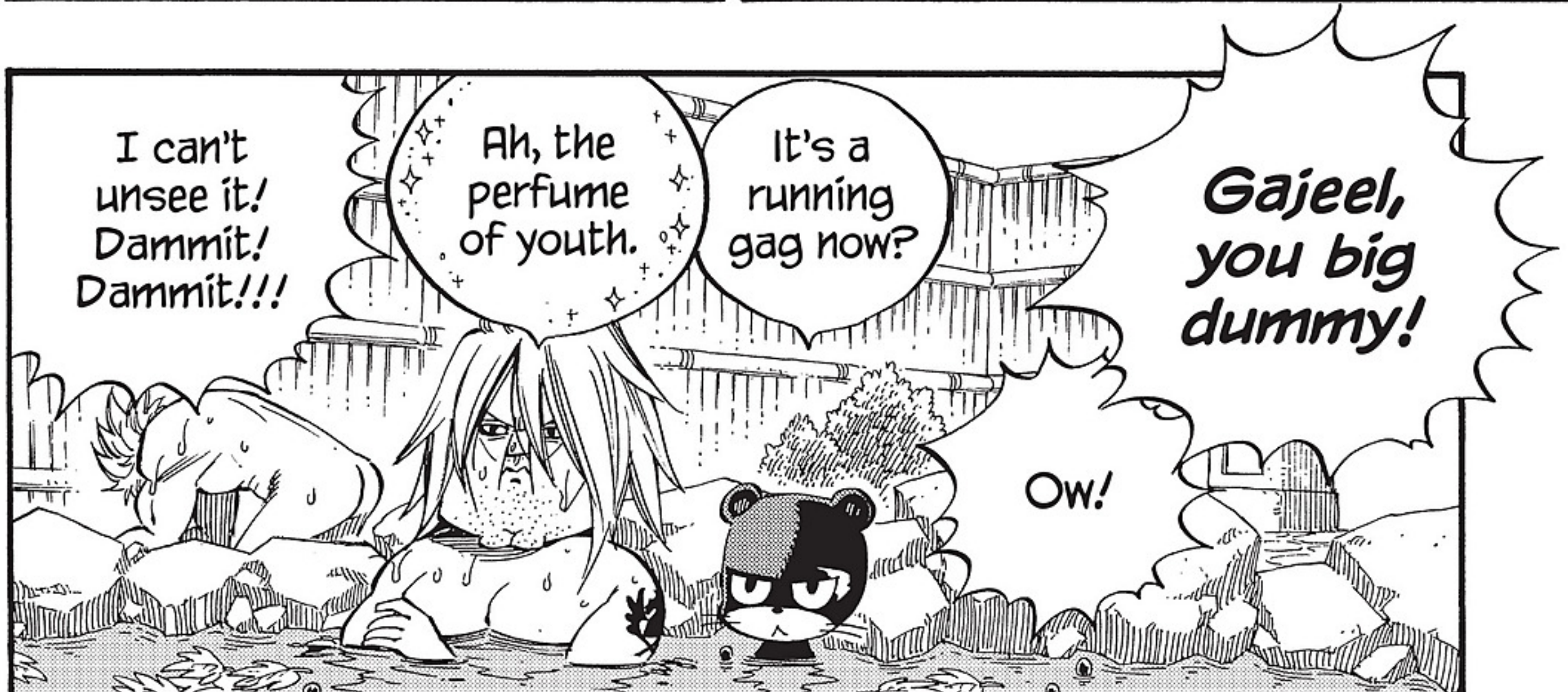
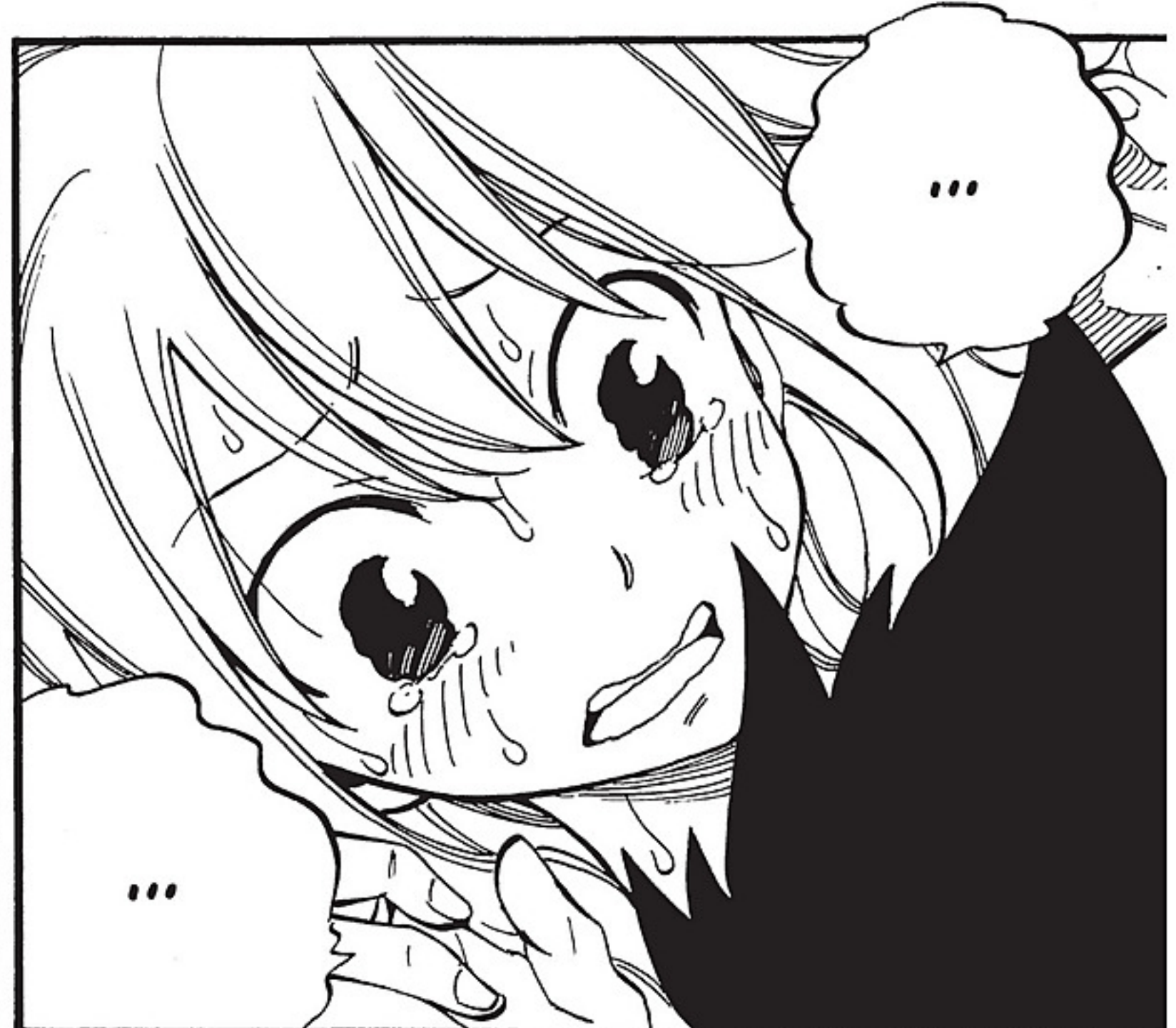
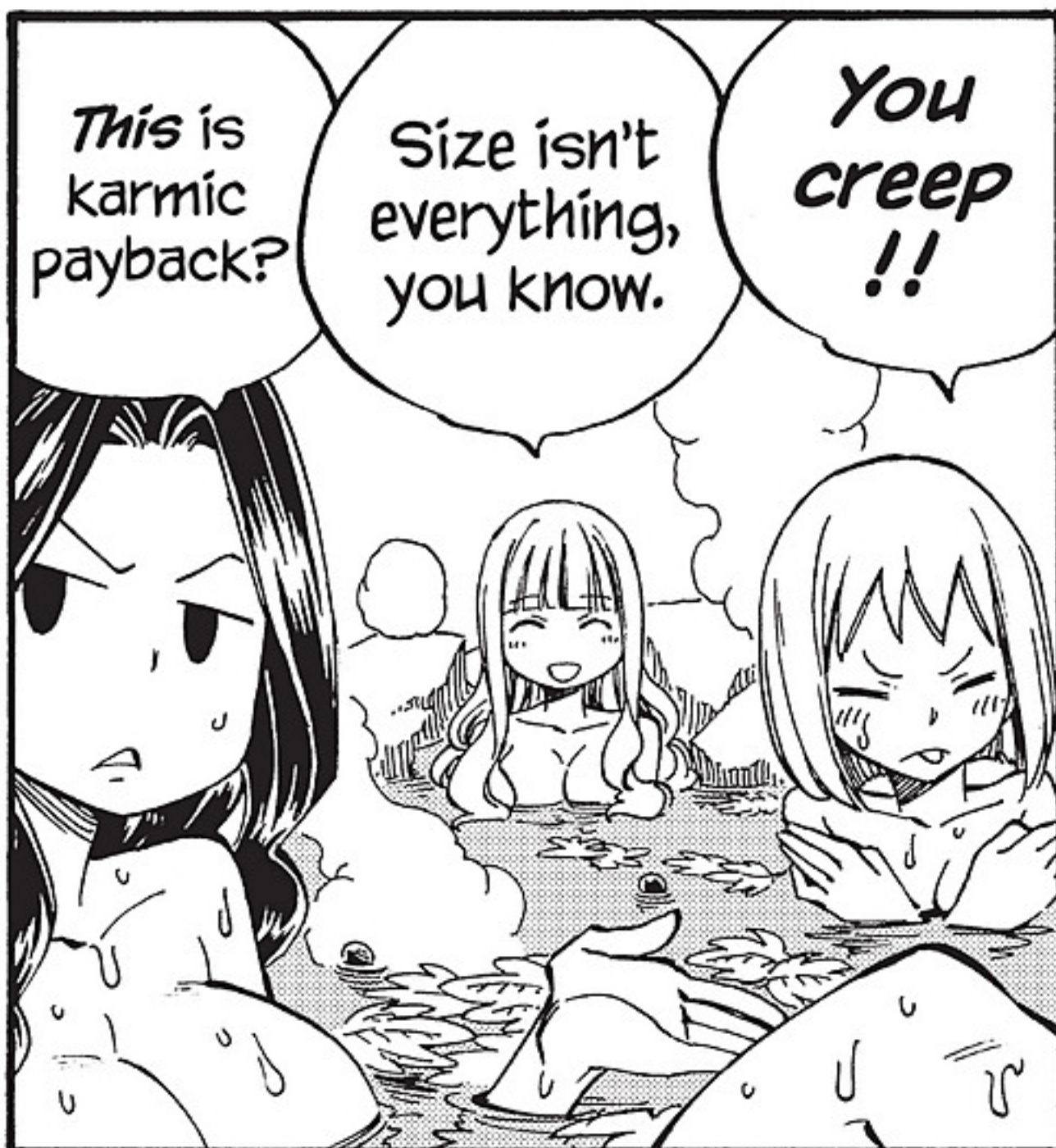
A man!

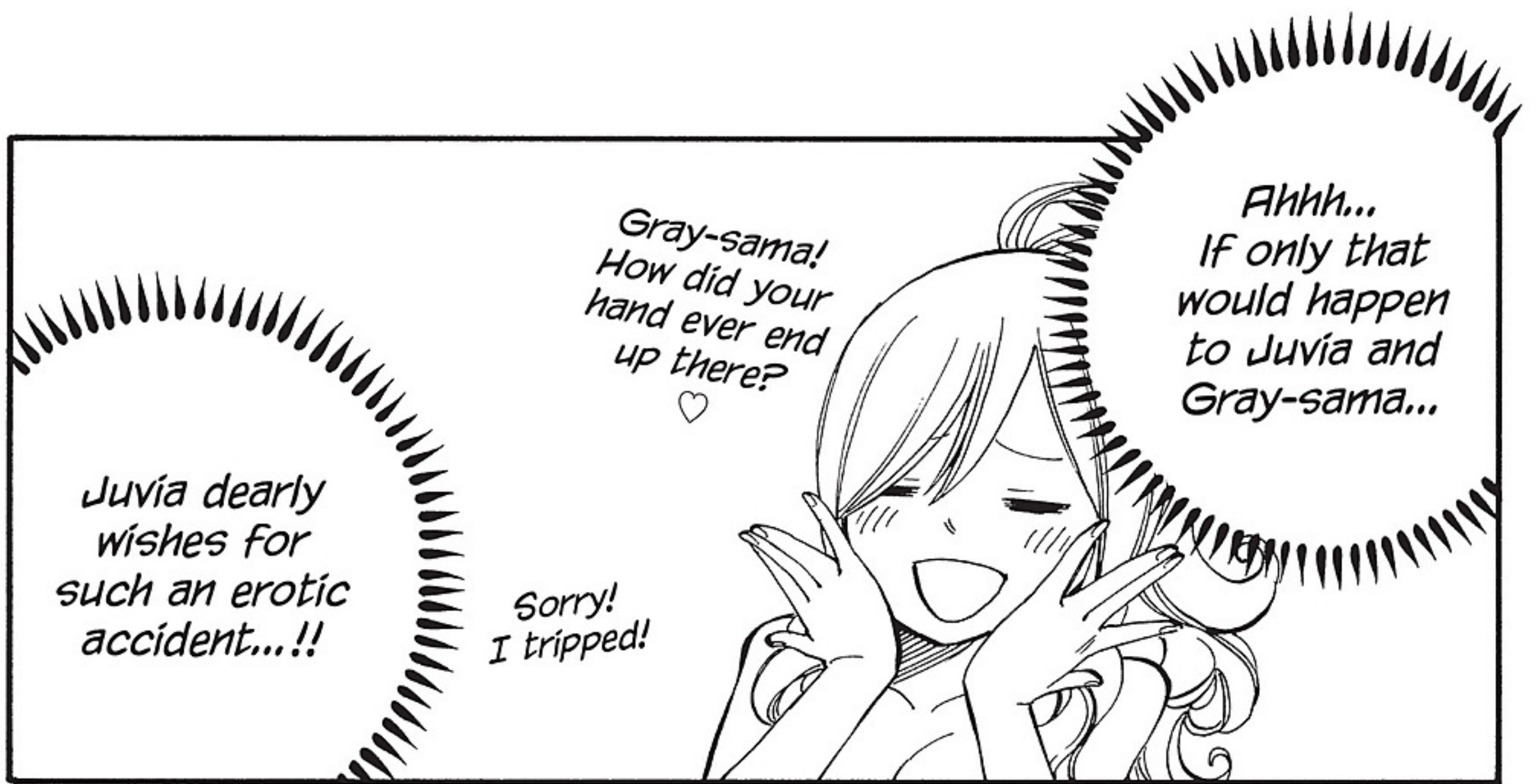


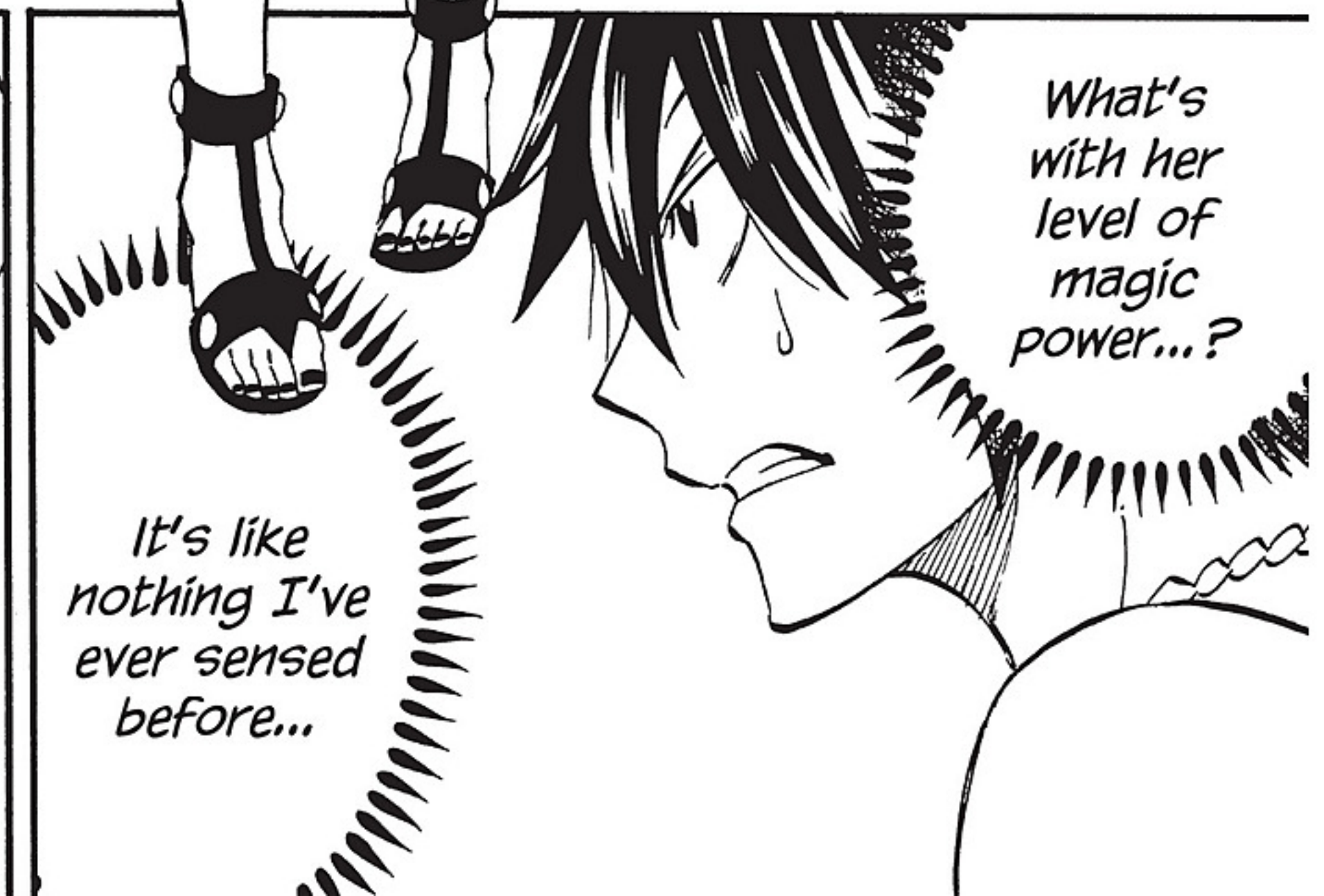


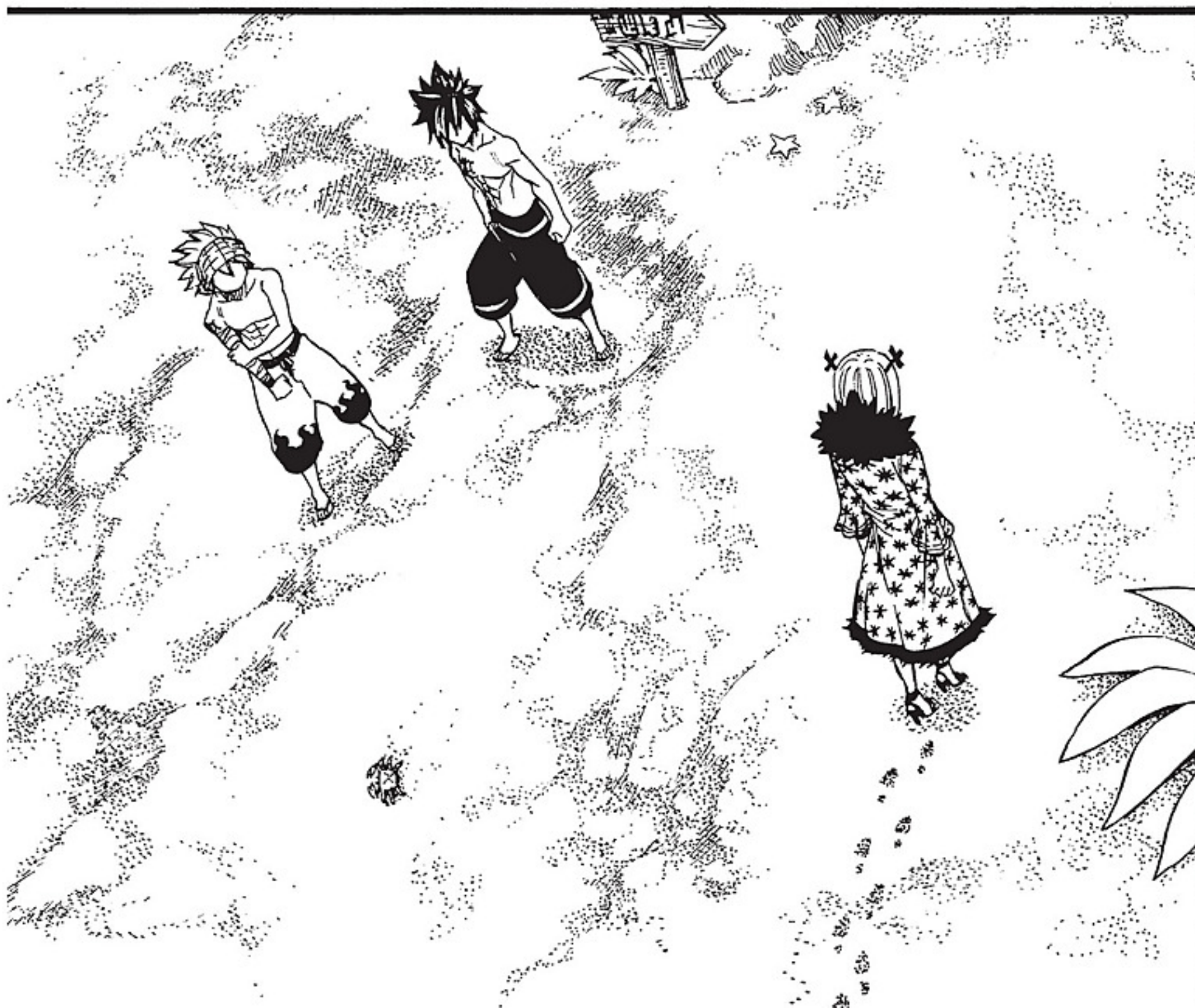
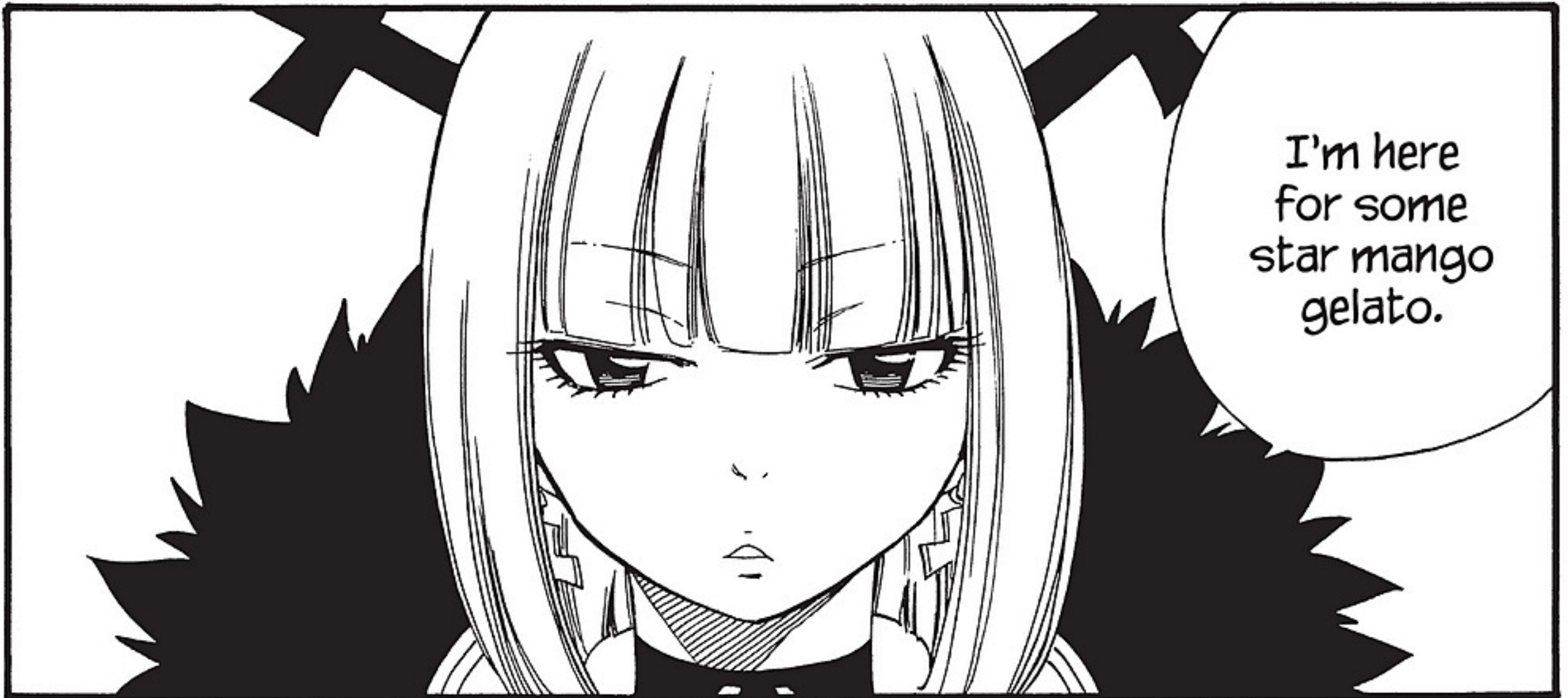
▲ Ass-terisk

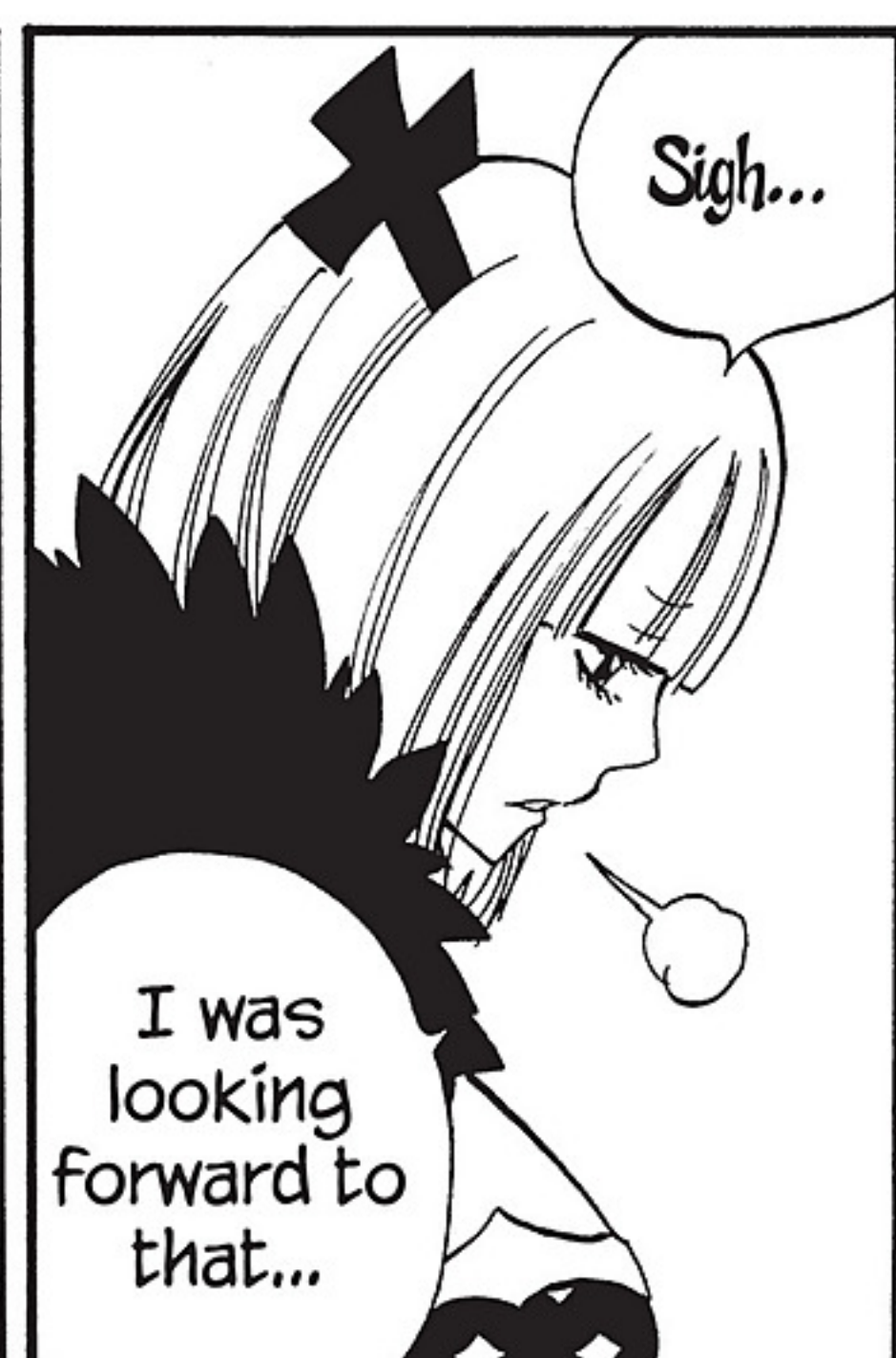
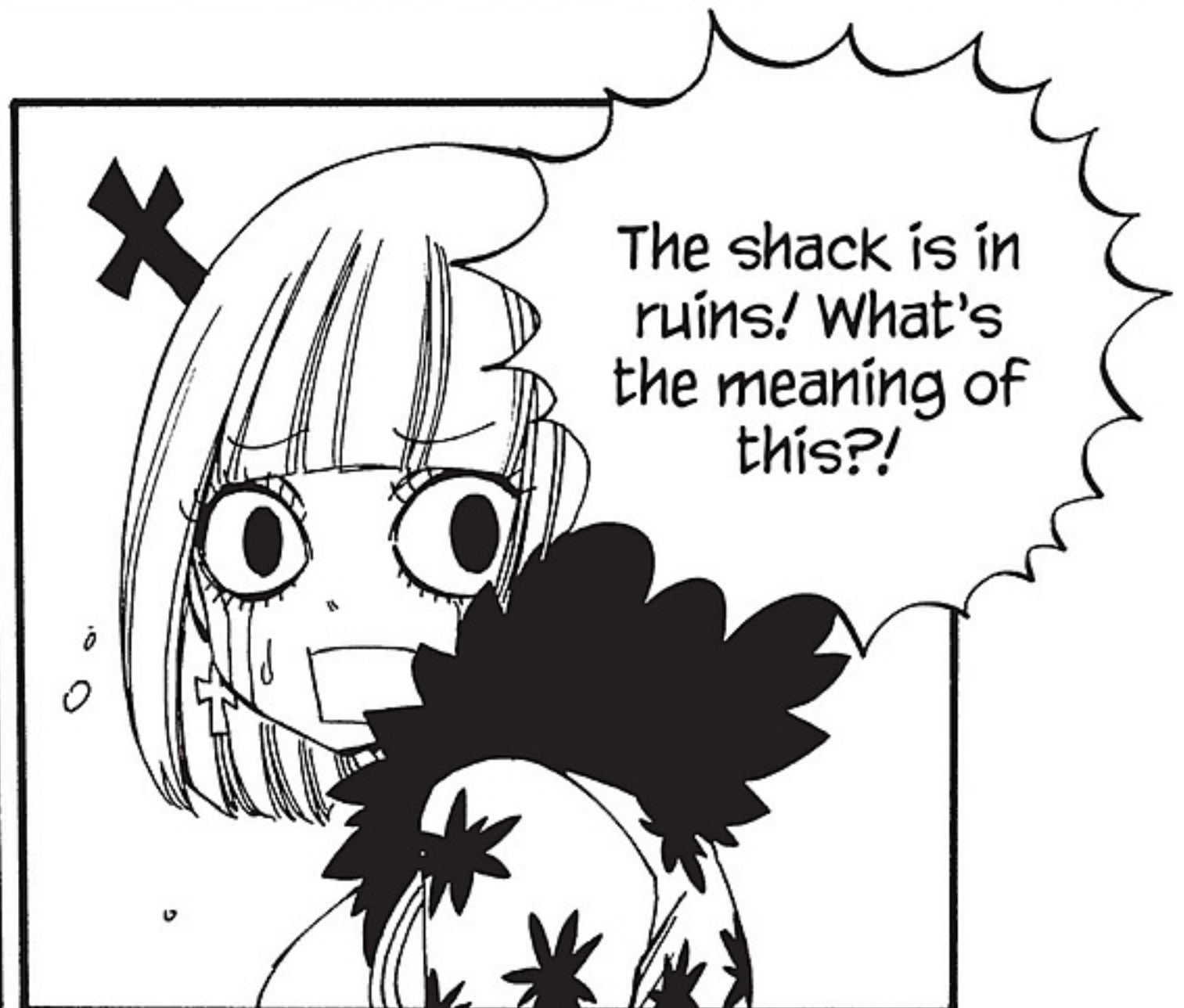
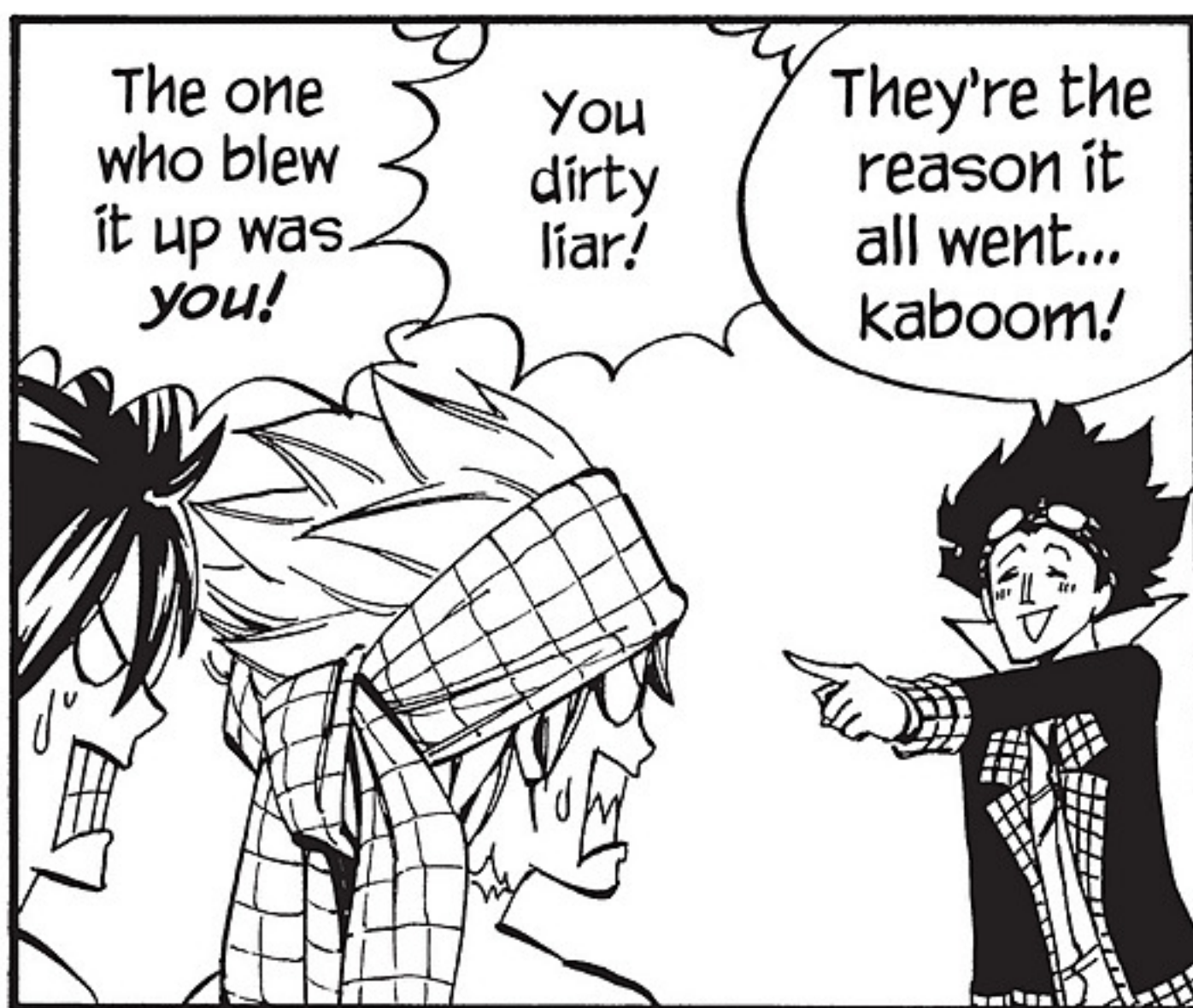
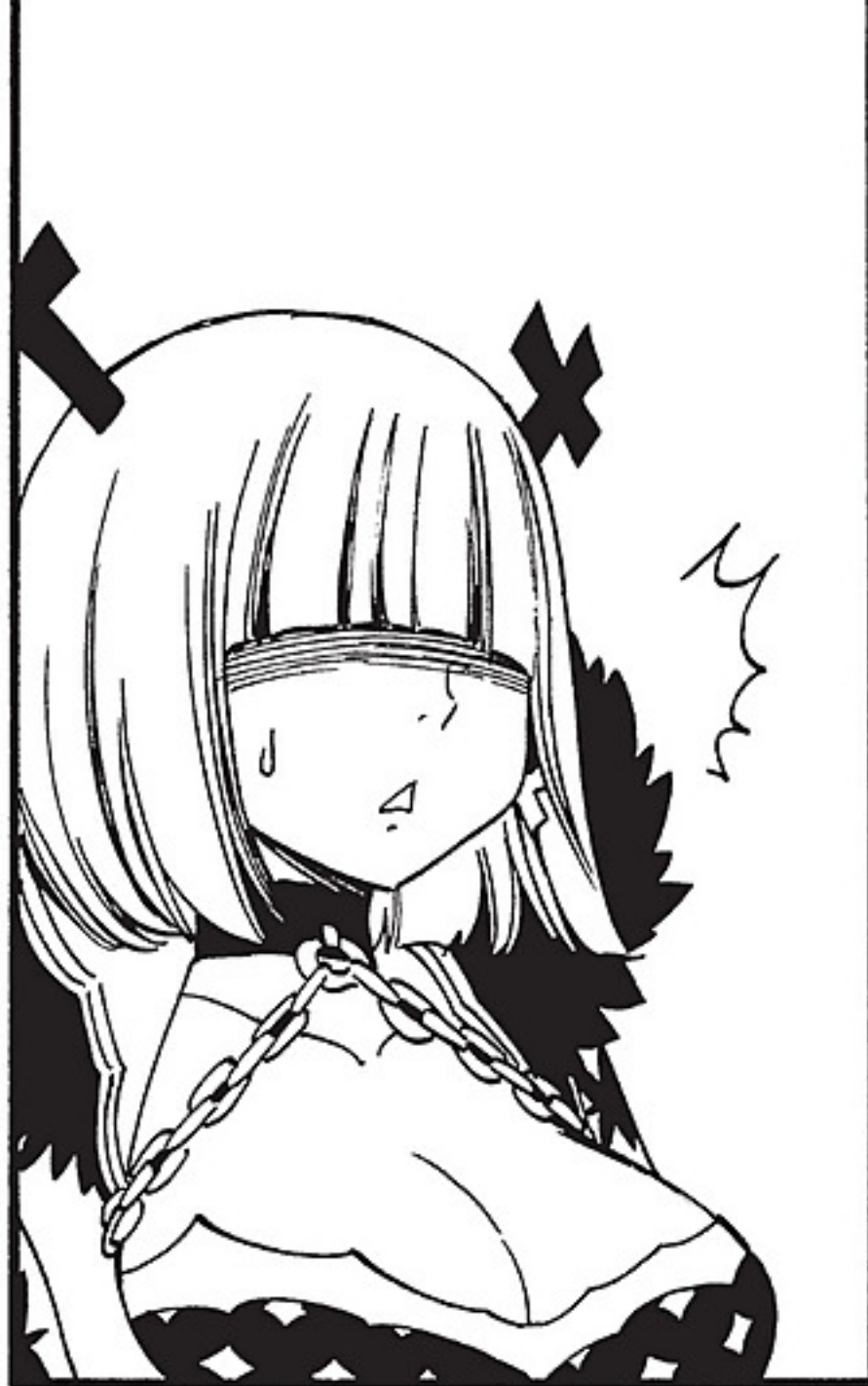


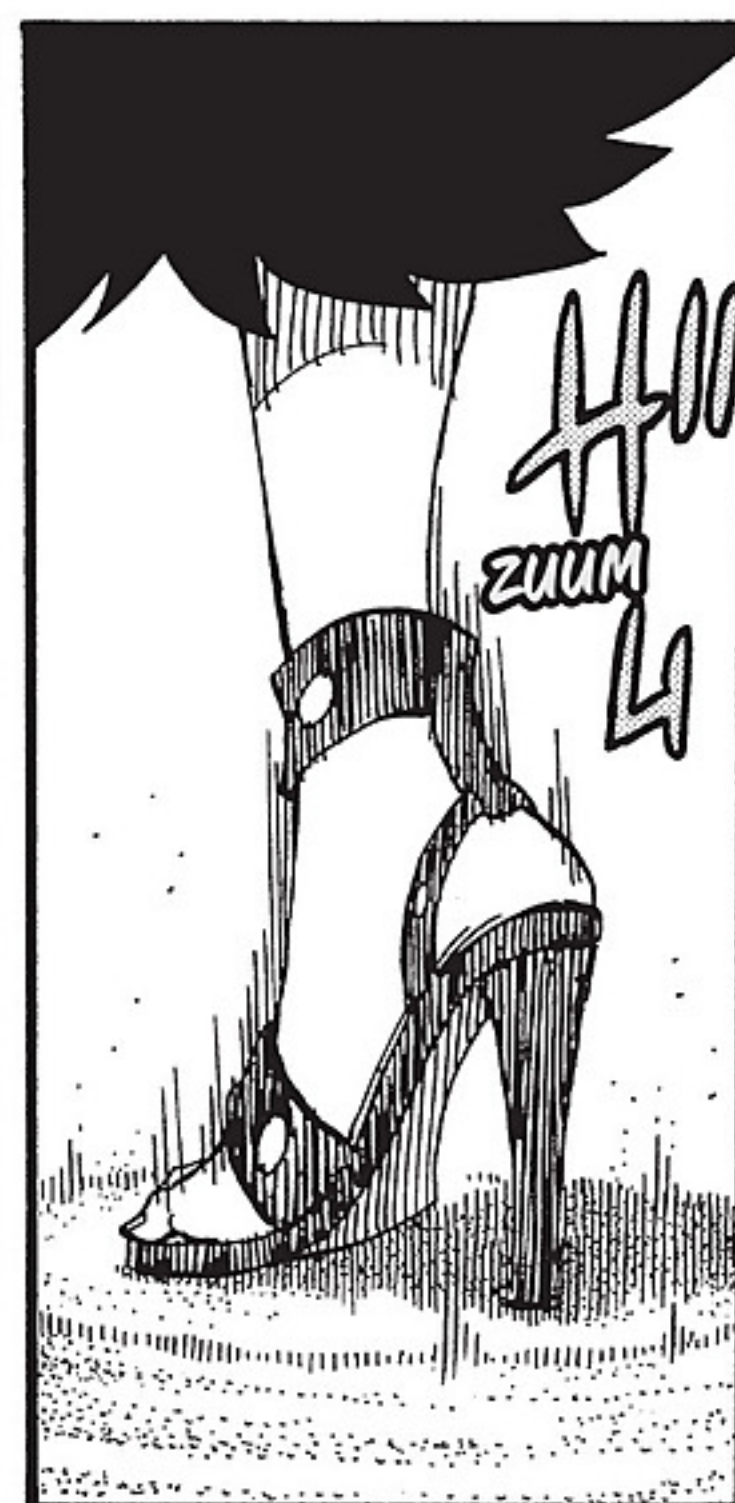
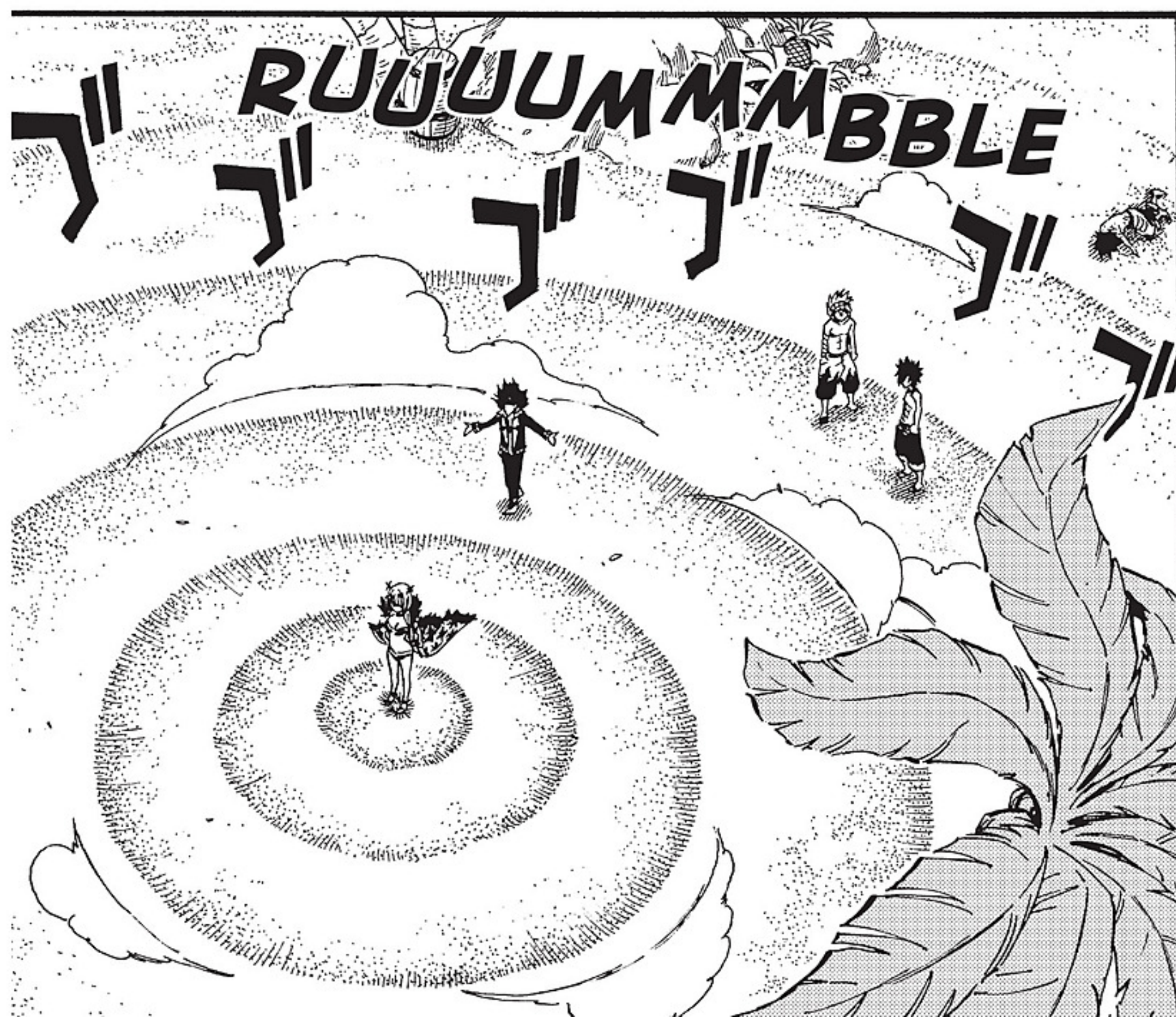


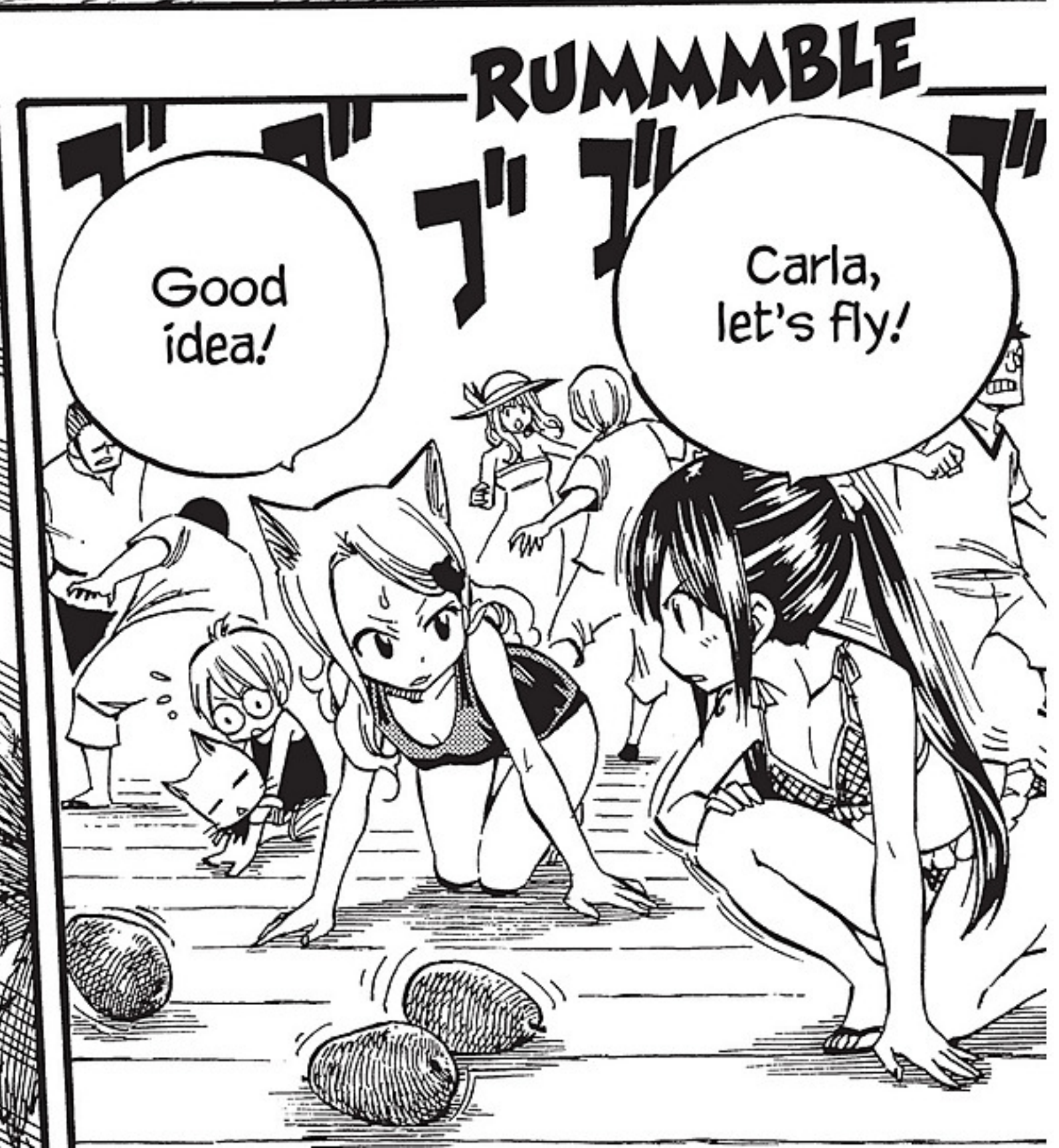


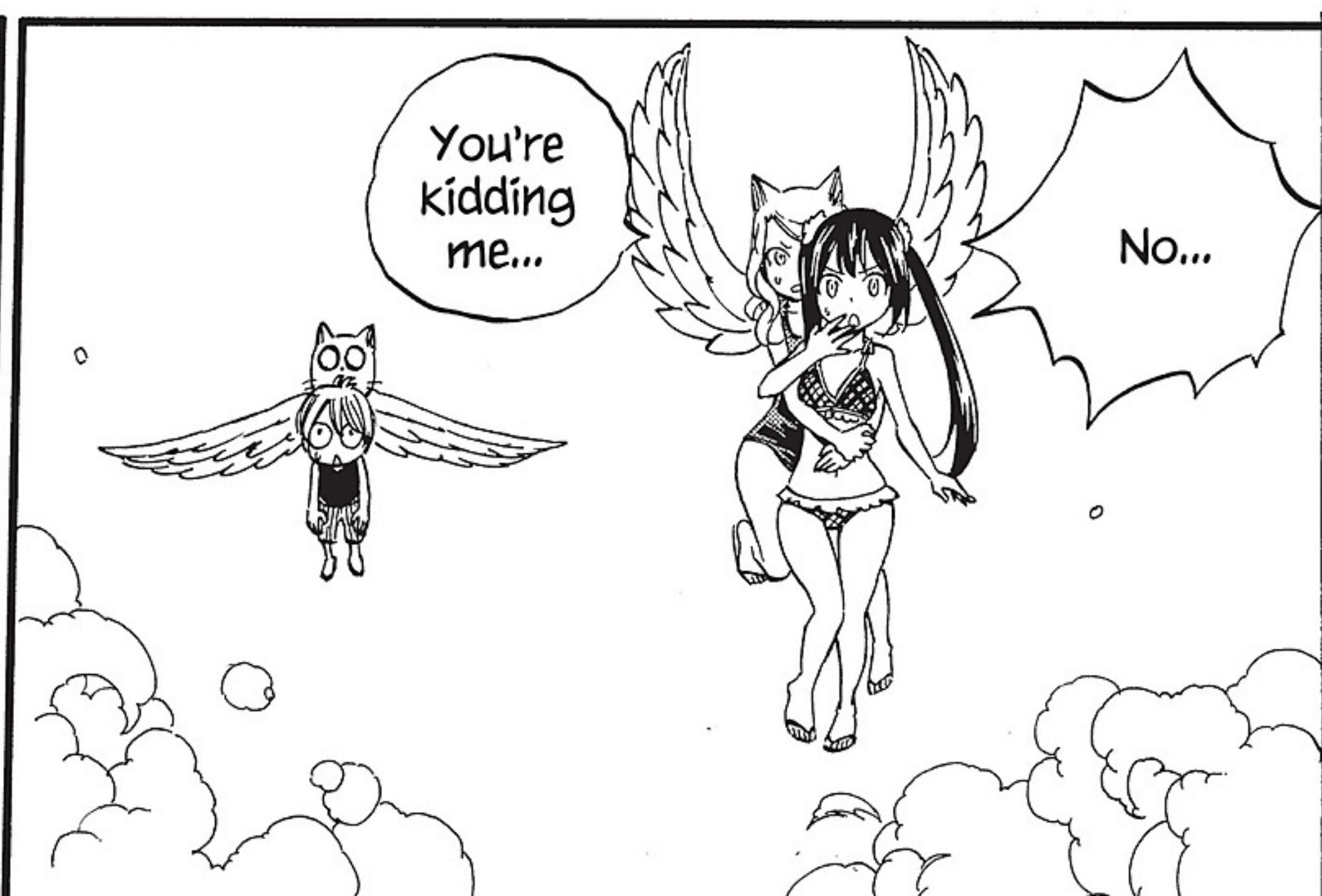


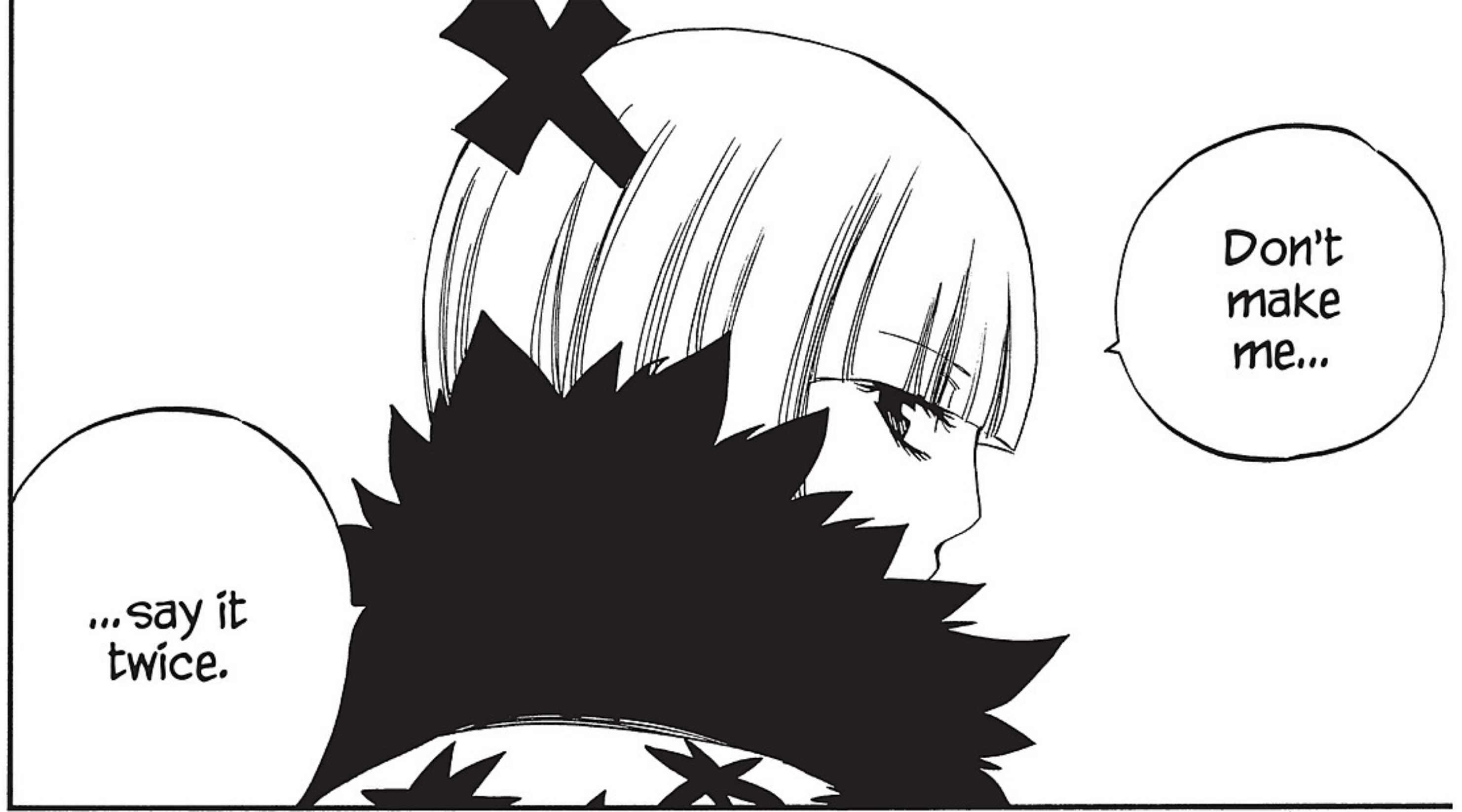




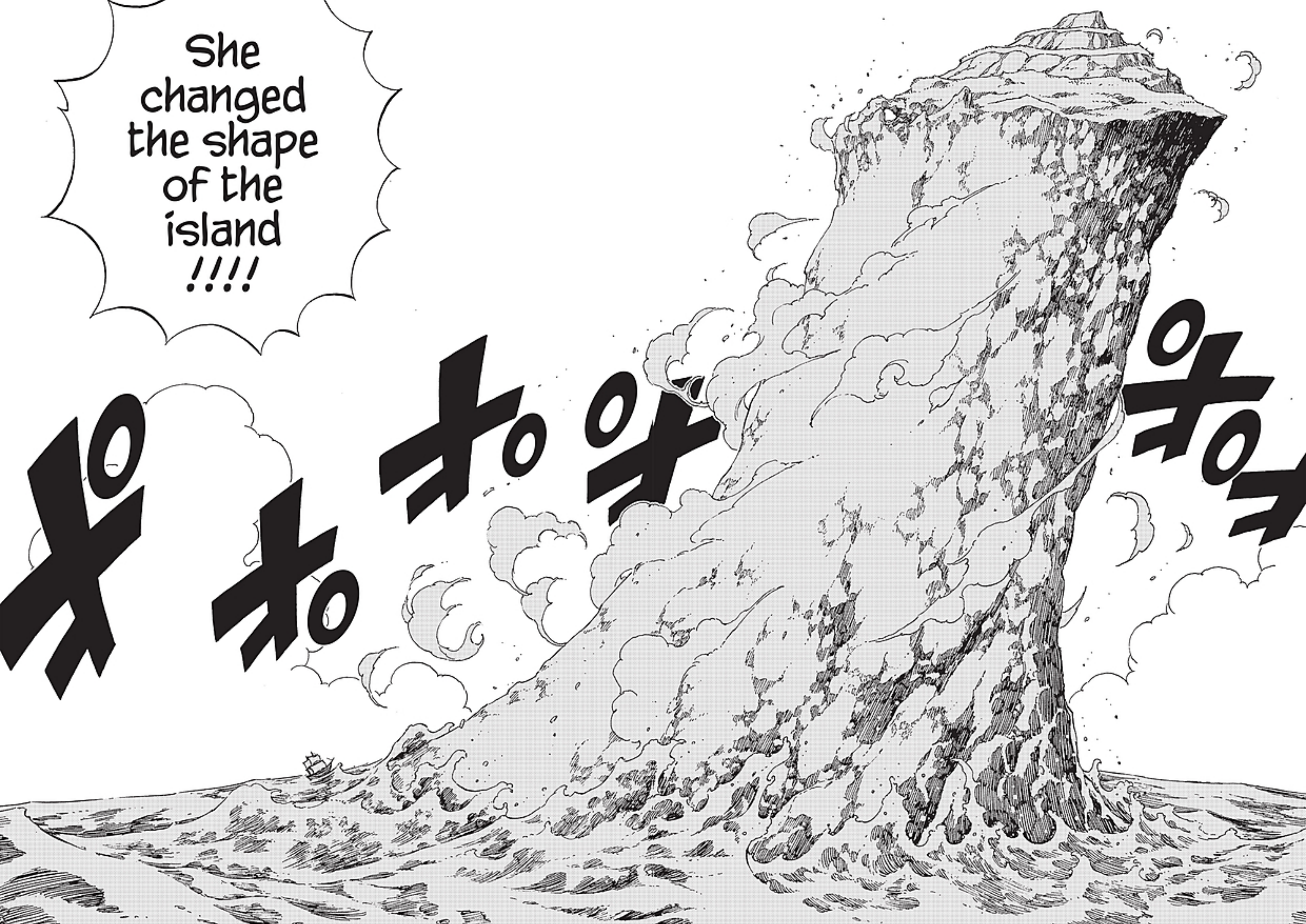


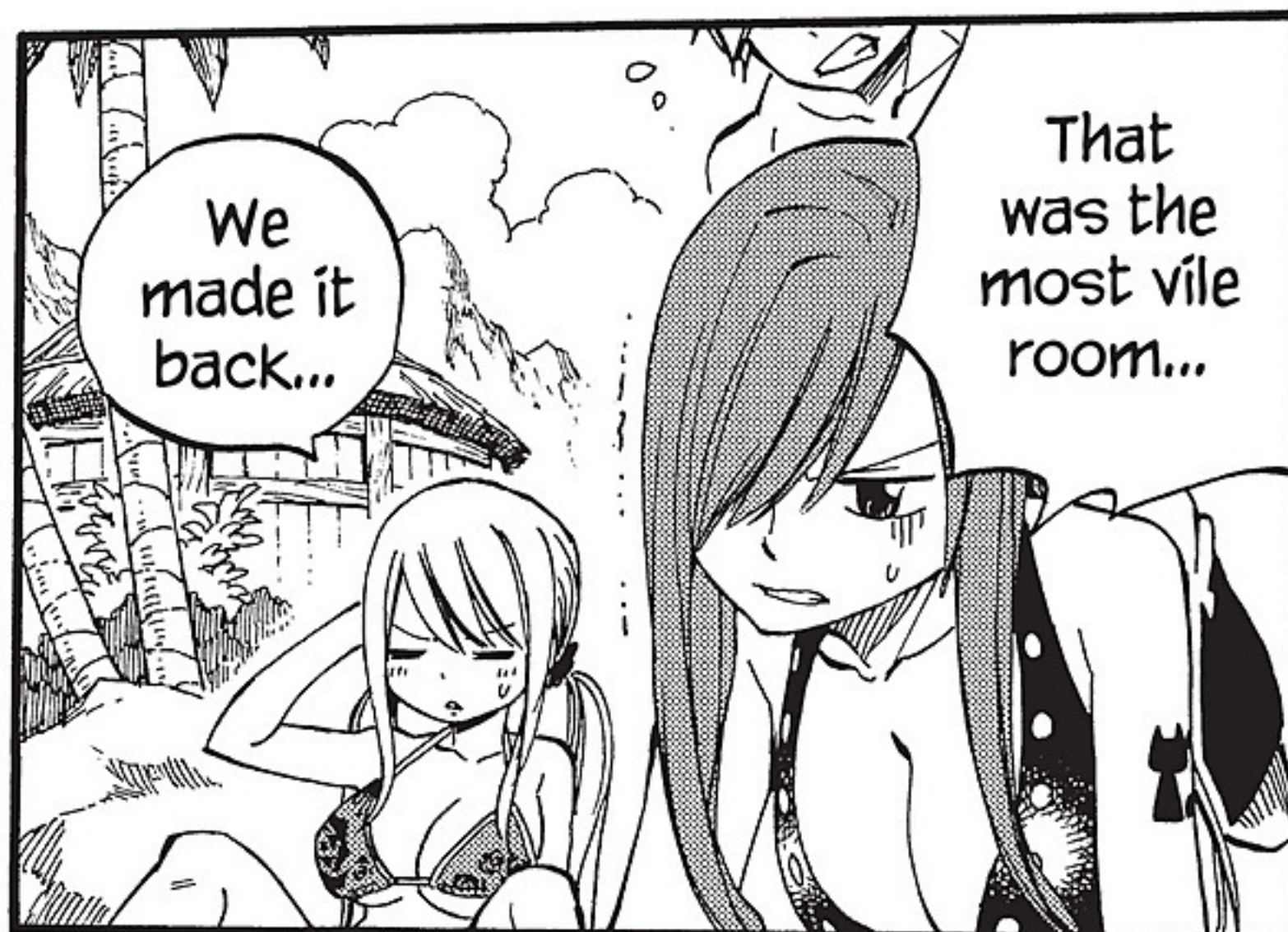






She
changed
the shape
of the
island
!!!!



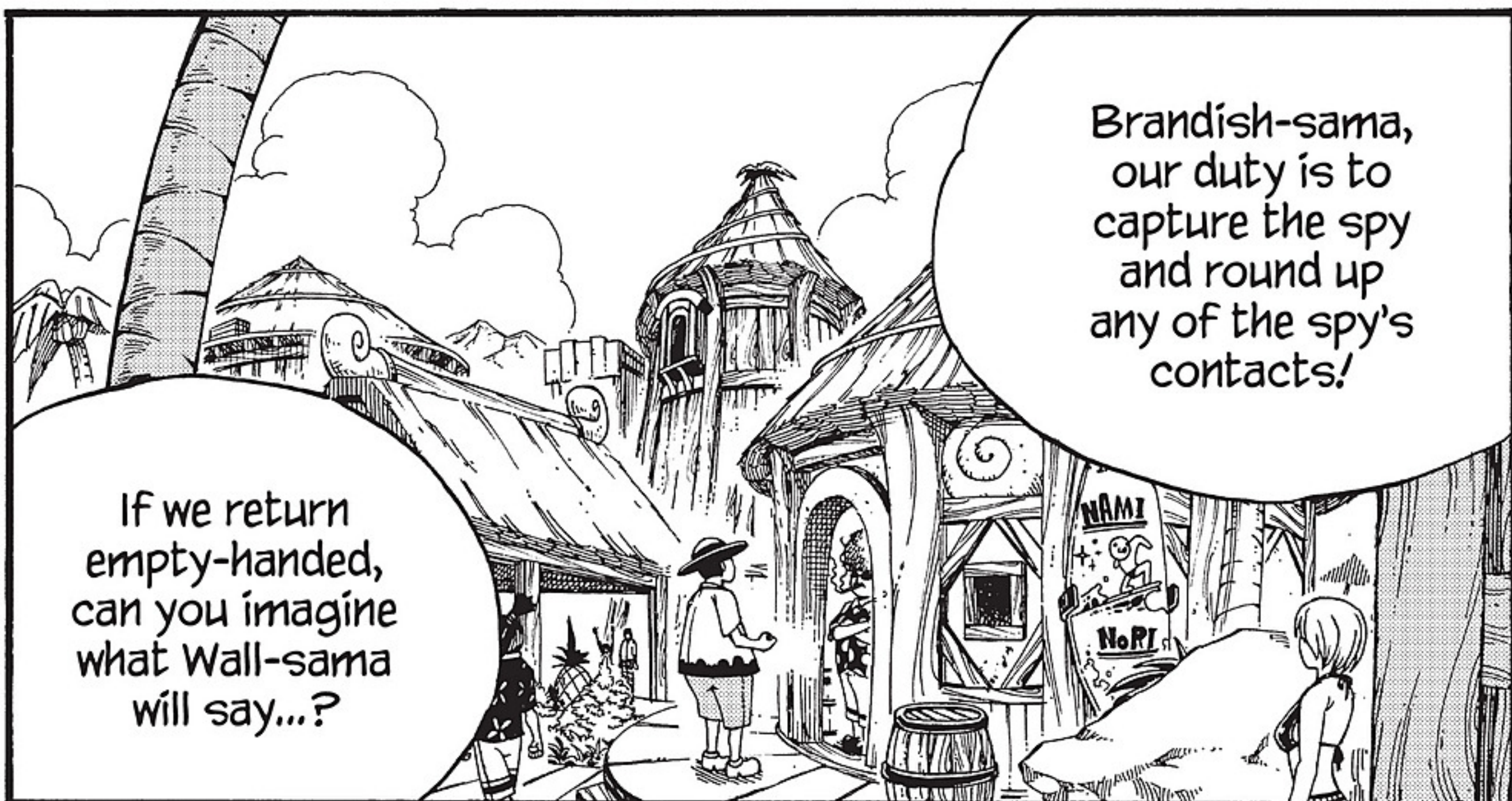




Just who
is she...?!

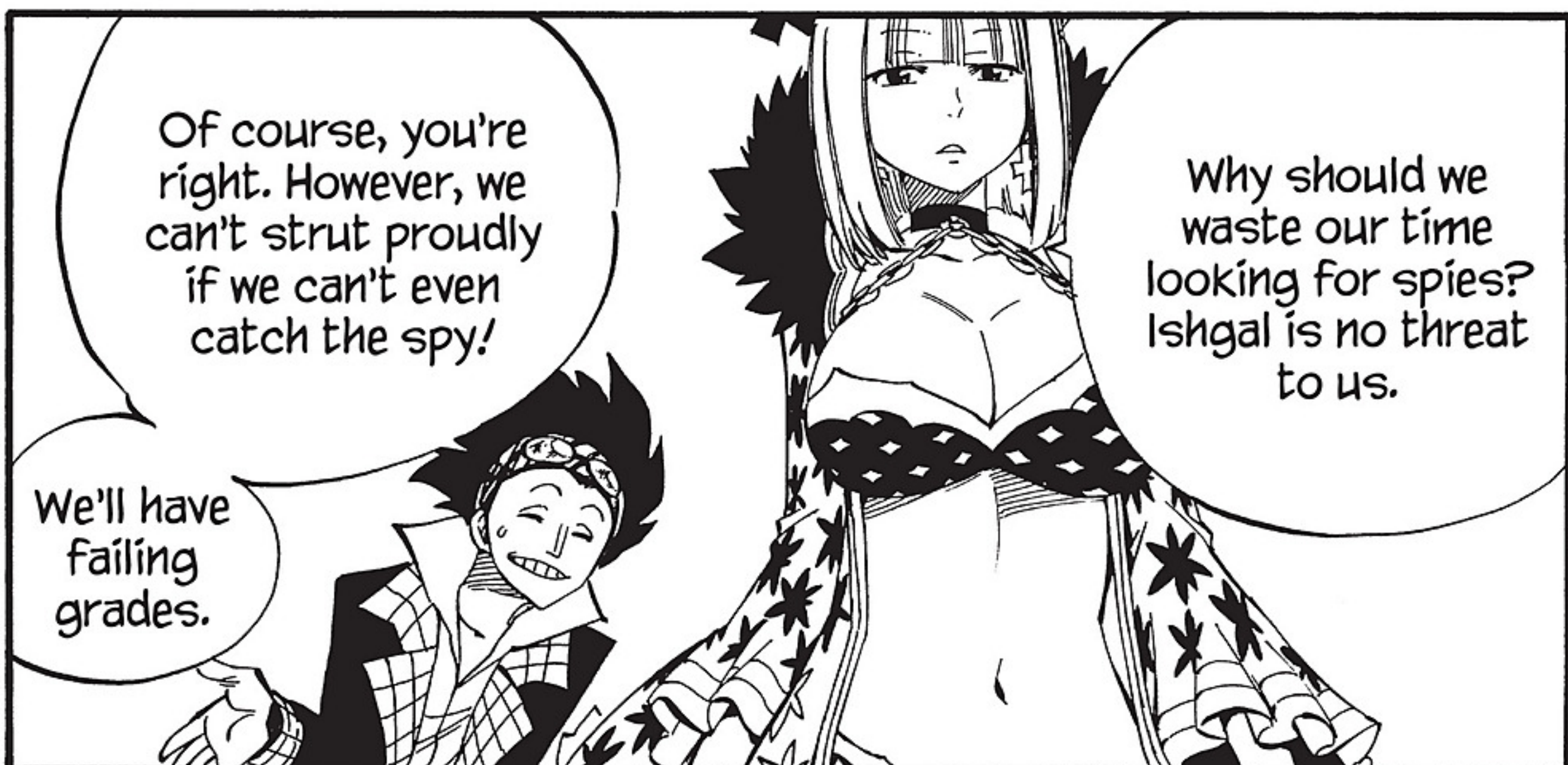


That
aura's bigger
than the
master's...



If we return
empty-handed,
can you imagine
what Wall-sama
will say...?

Brandish-sama,
our duty is to
capture the spy
and round up
any of the spy's
contacts!

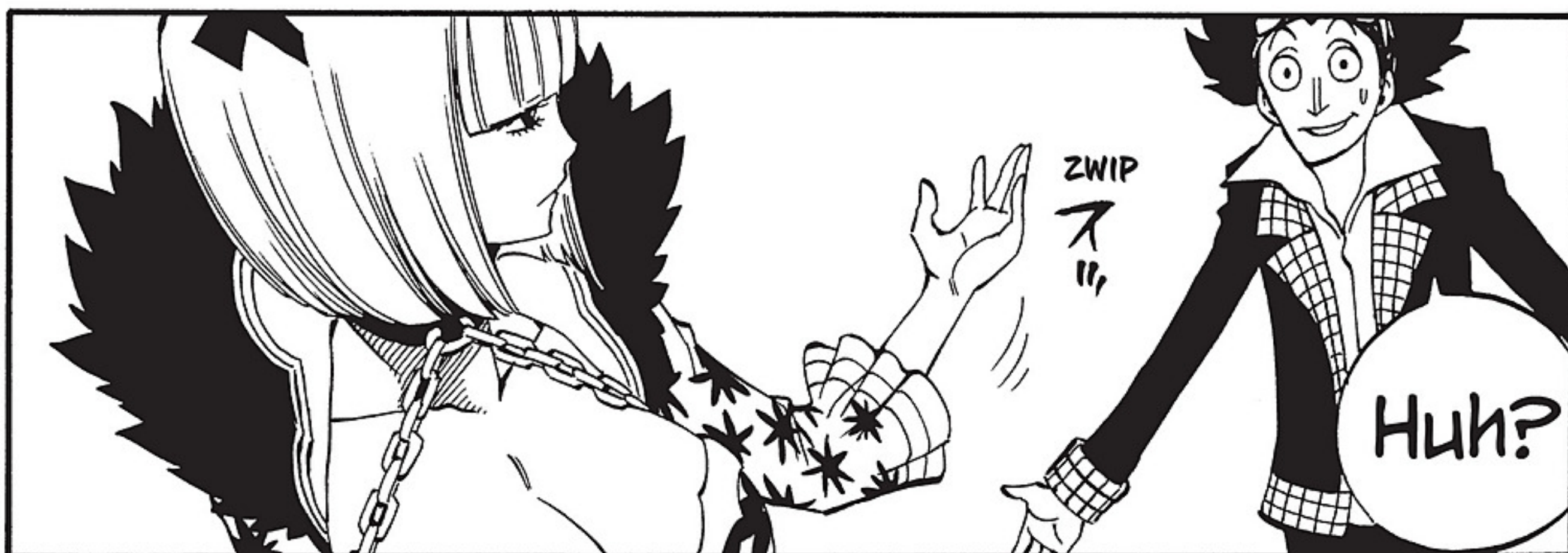


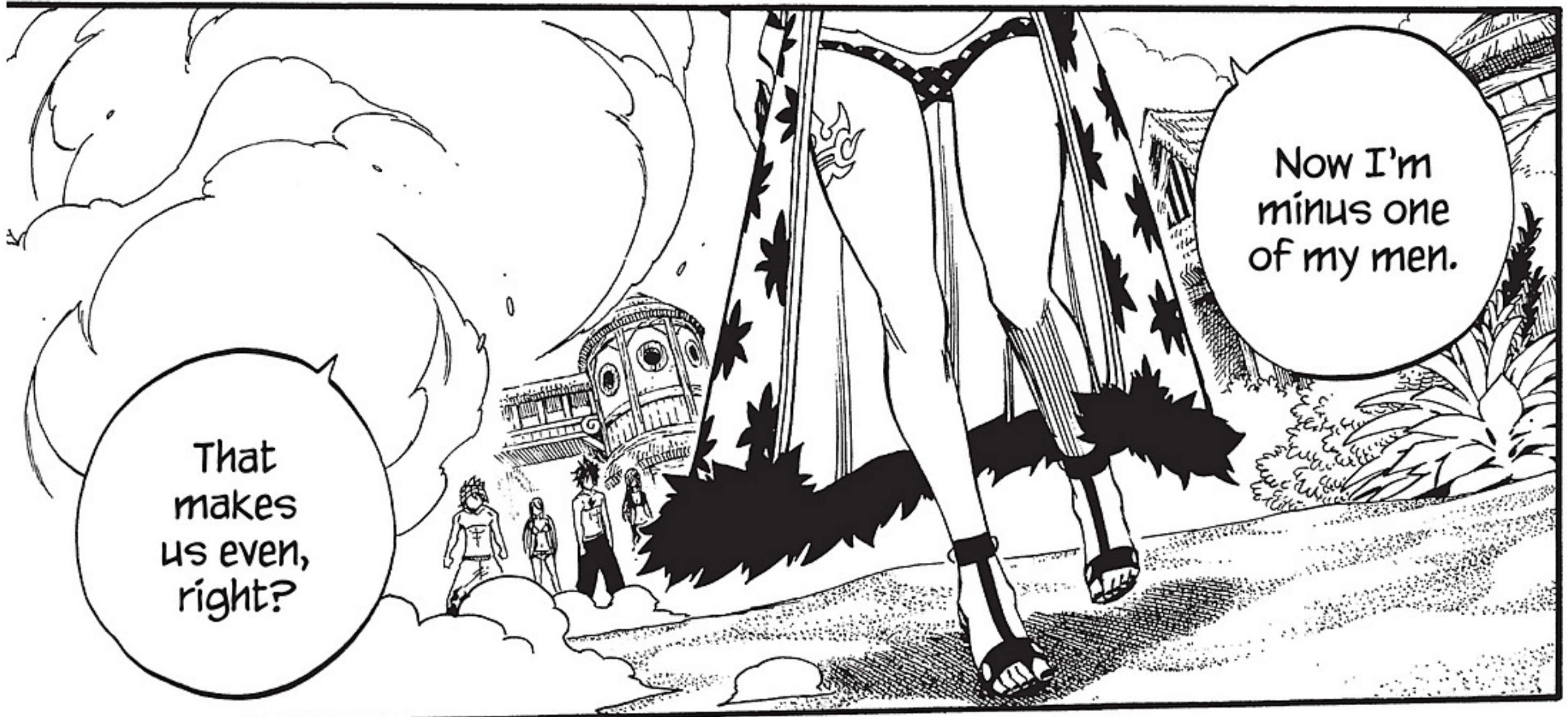
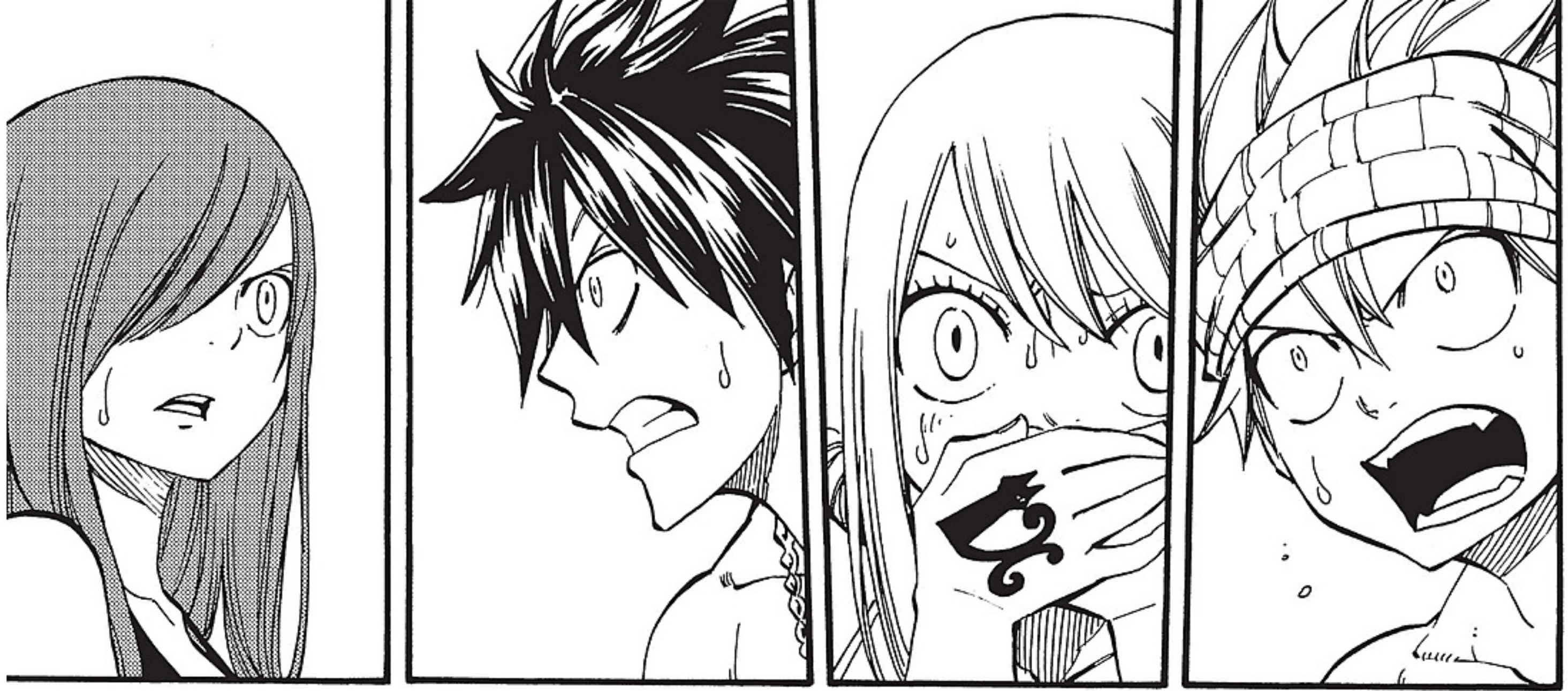
Of course, you're
right. However, we
can't strut proudly
if we can't even
catch the spy!

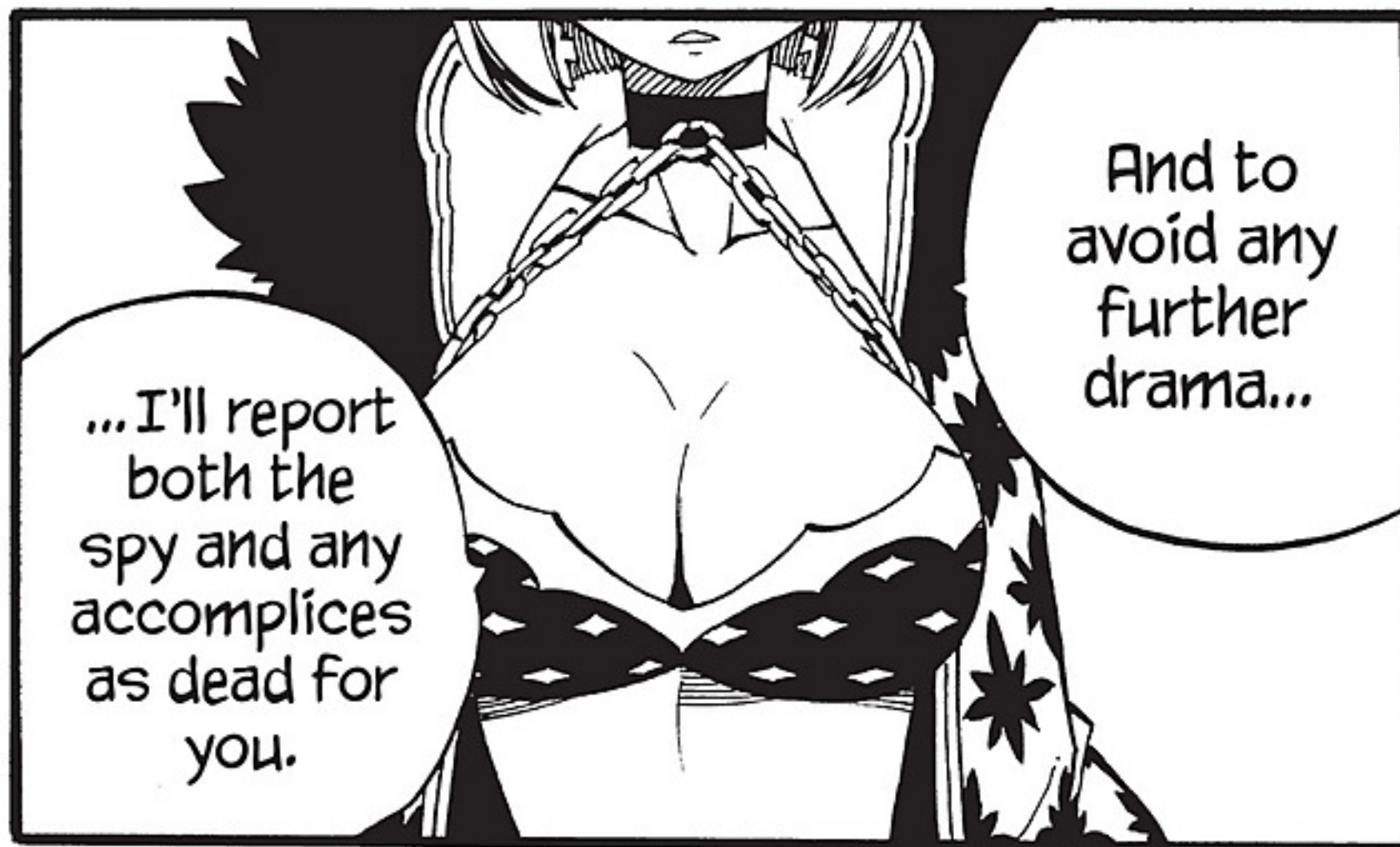
We'll have
failing
grades.

Why should we
waste our time
looking for spies?
Ishgal is no threat
to us.







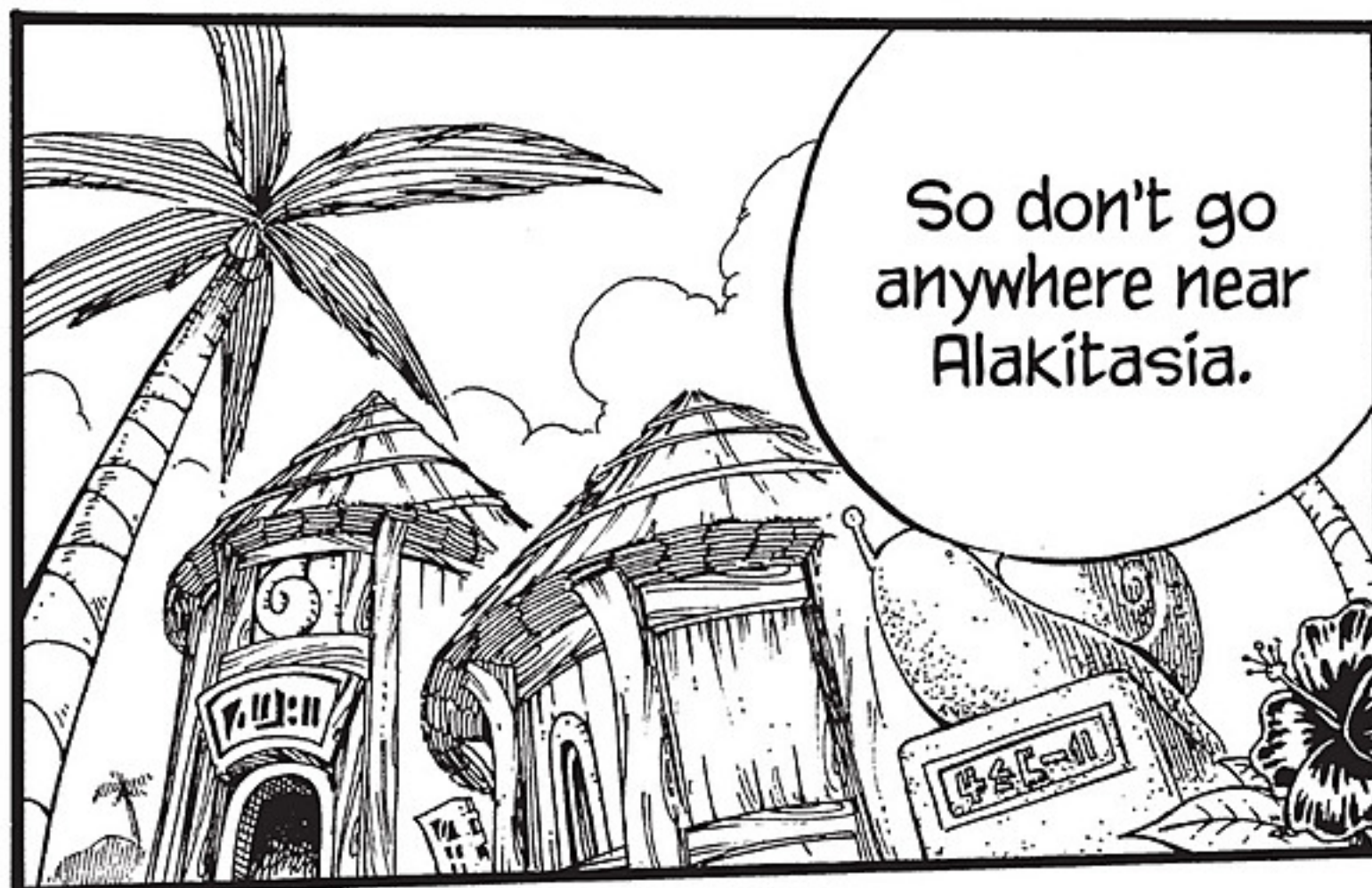


...I'll report both the spy and any accomplices as dead for you.

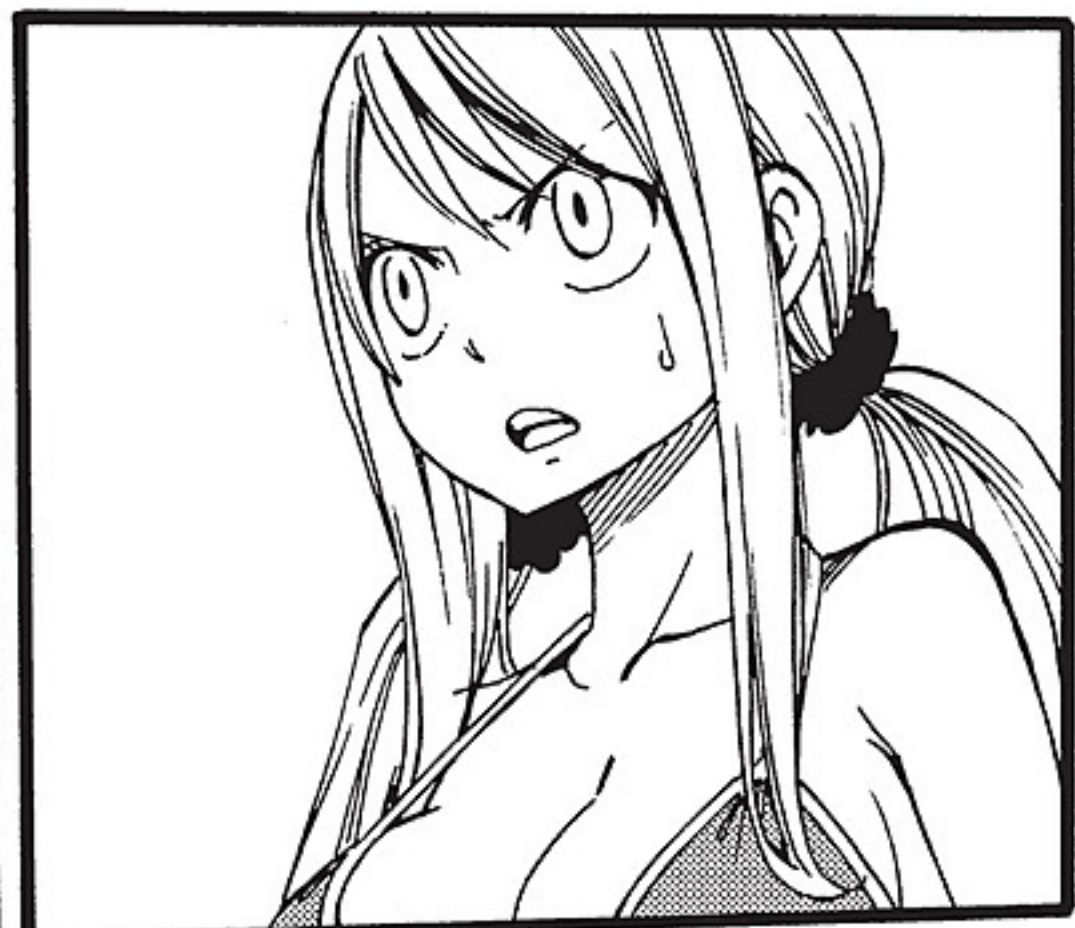
And to avoid any further drama...



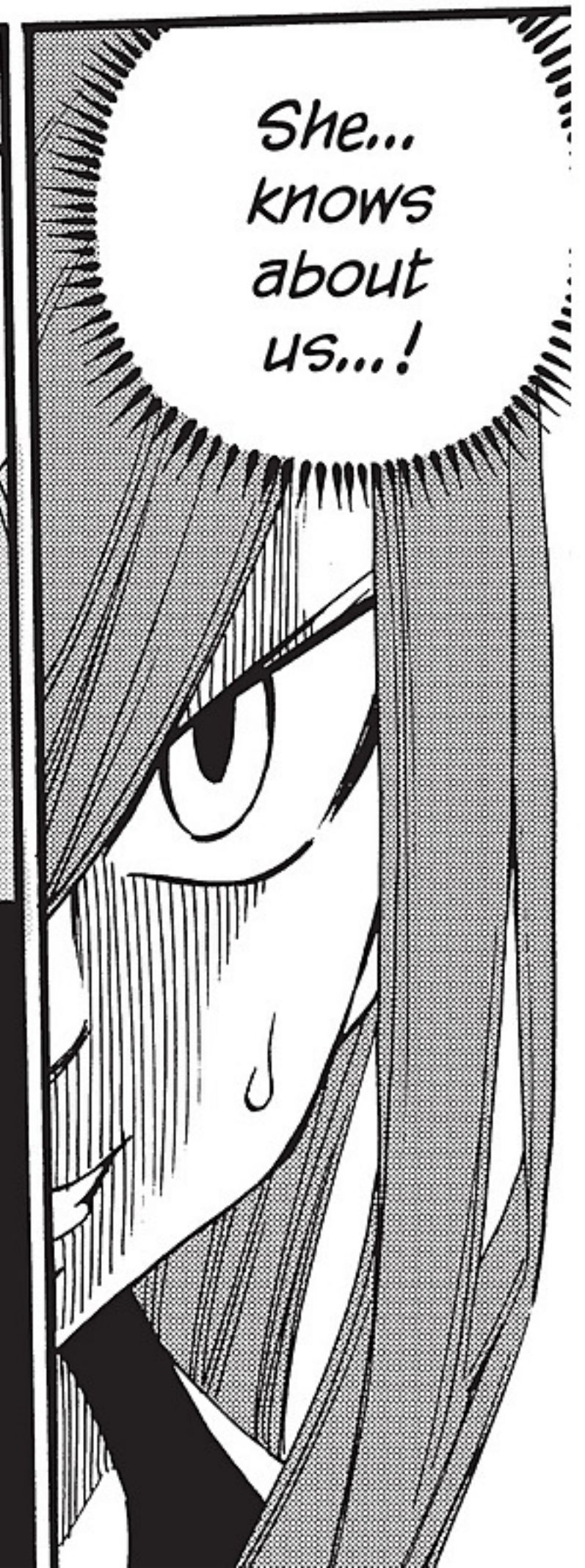
He was one of your own...



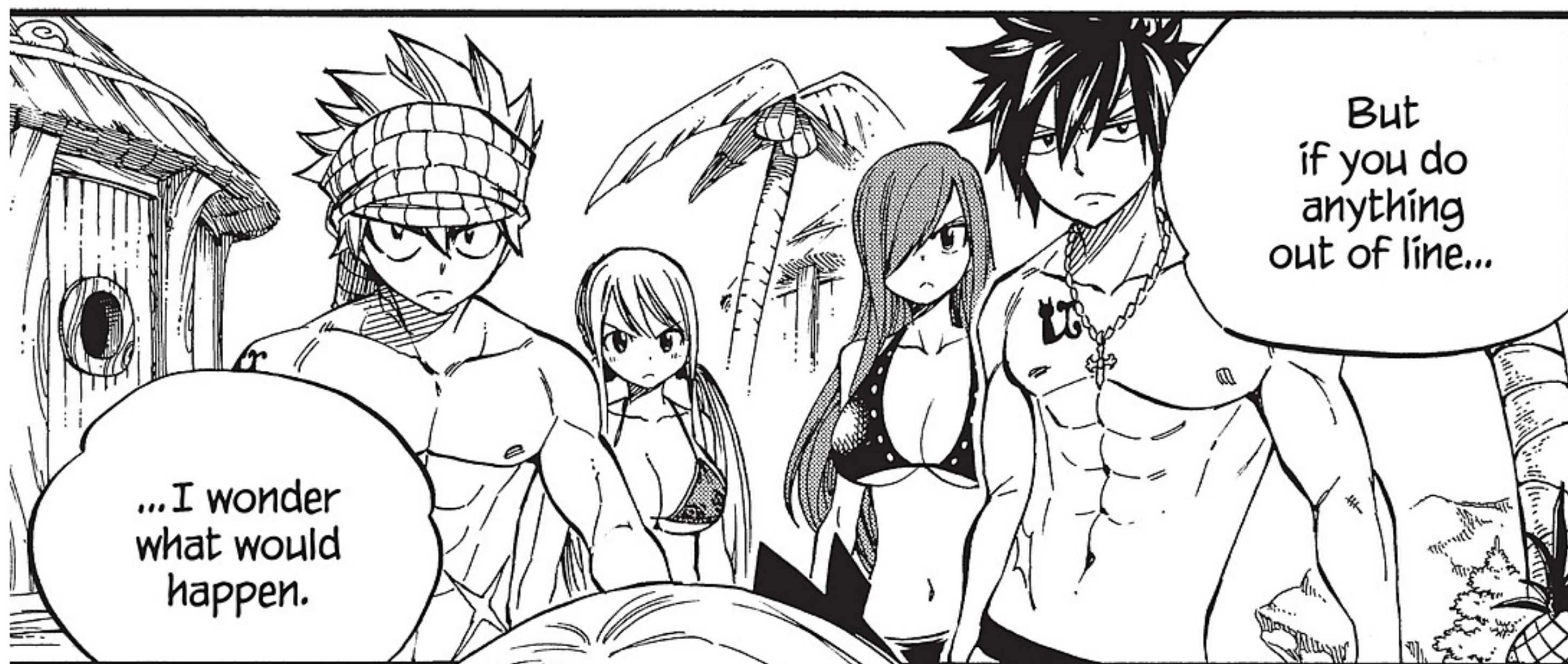
So don't go anywhere near Alakitasia.



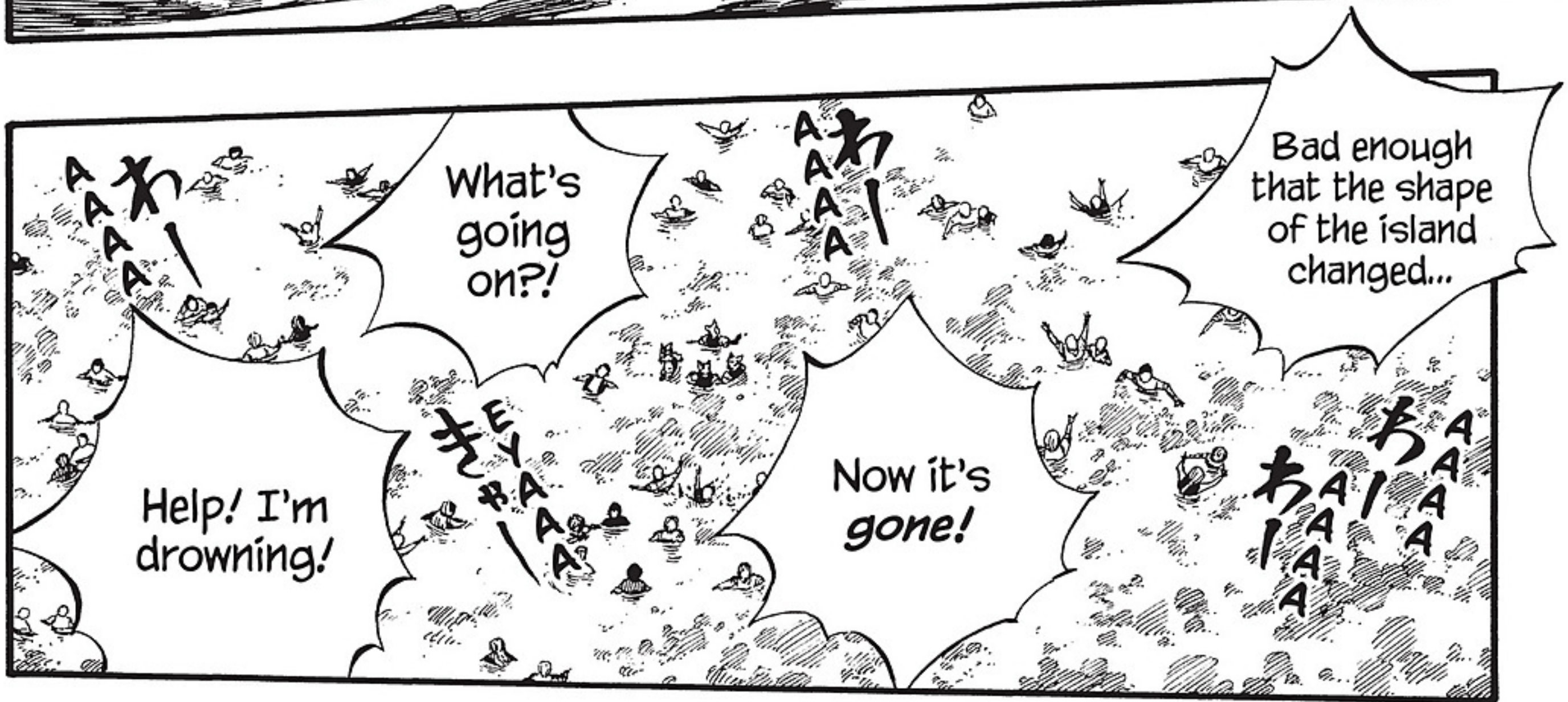
Makarov is still alive, you know.



She... knows about us...!

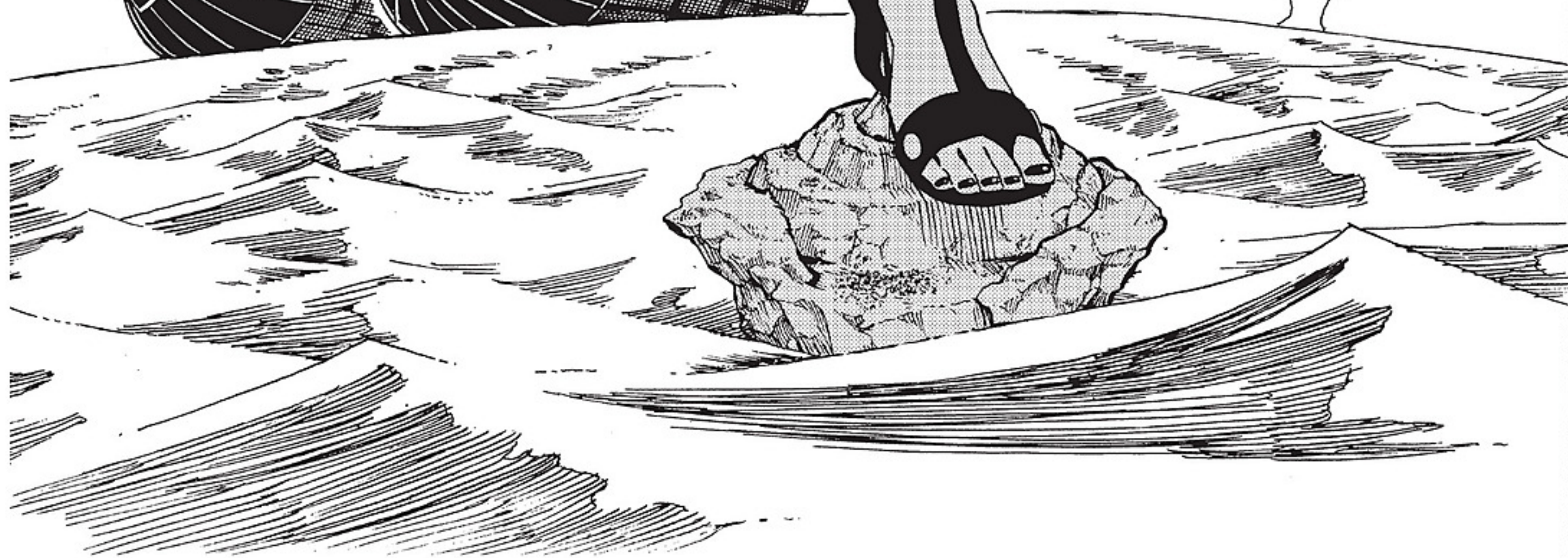
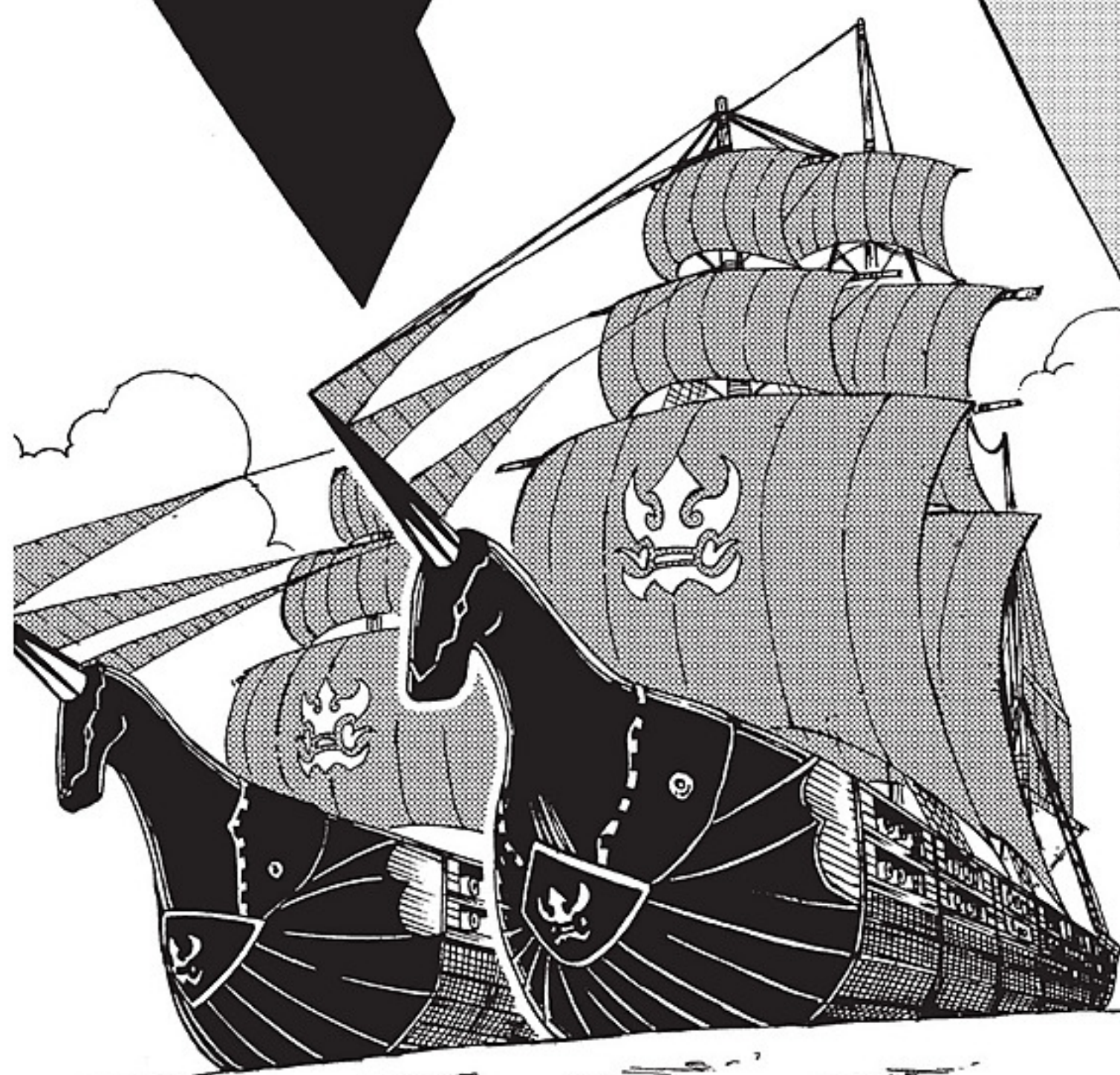


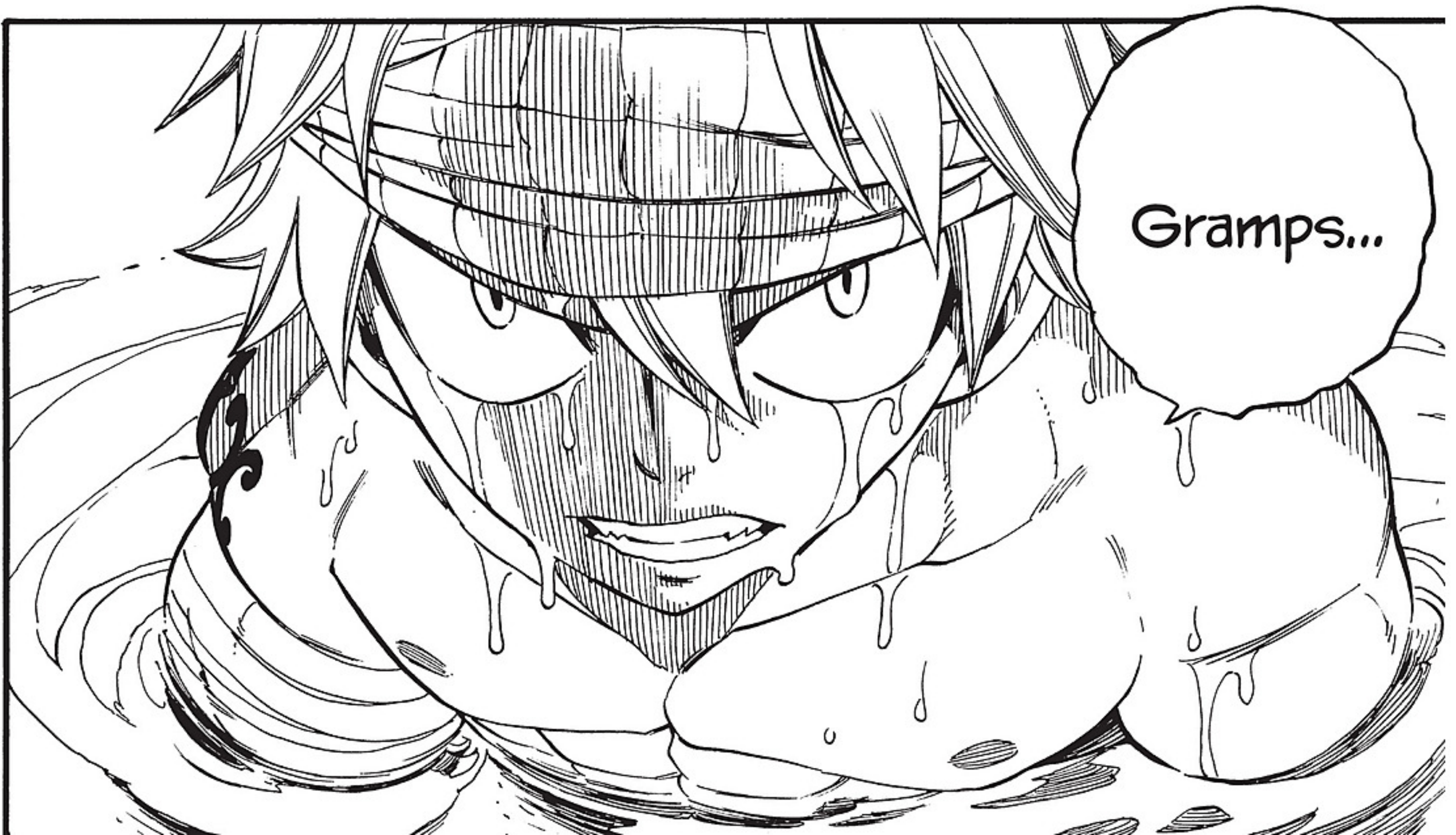
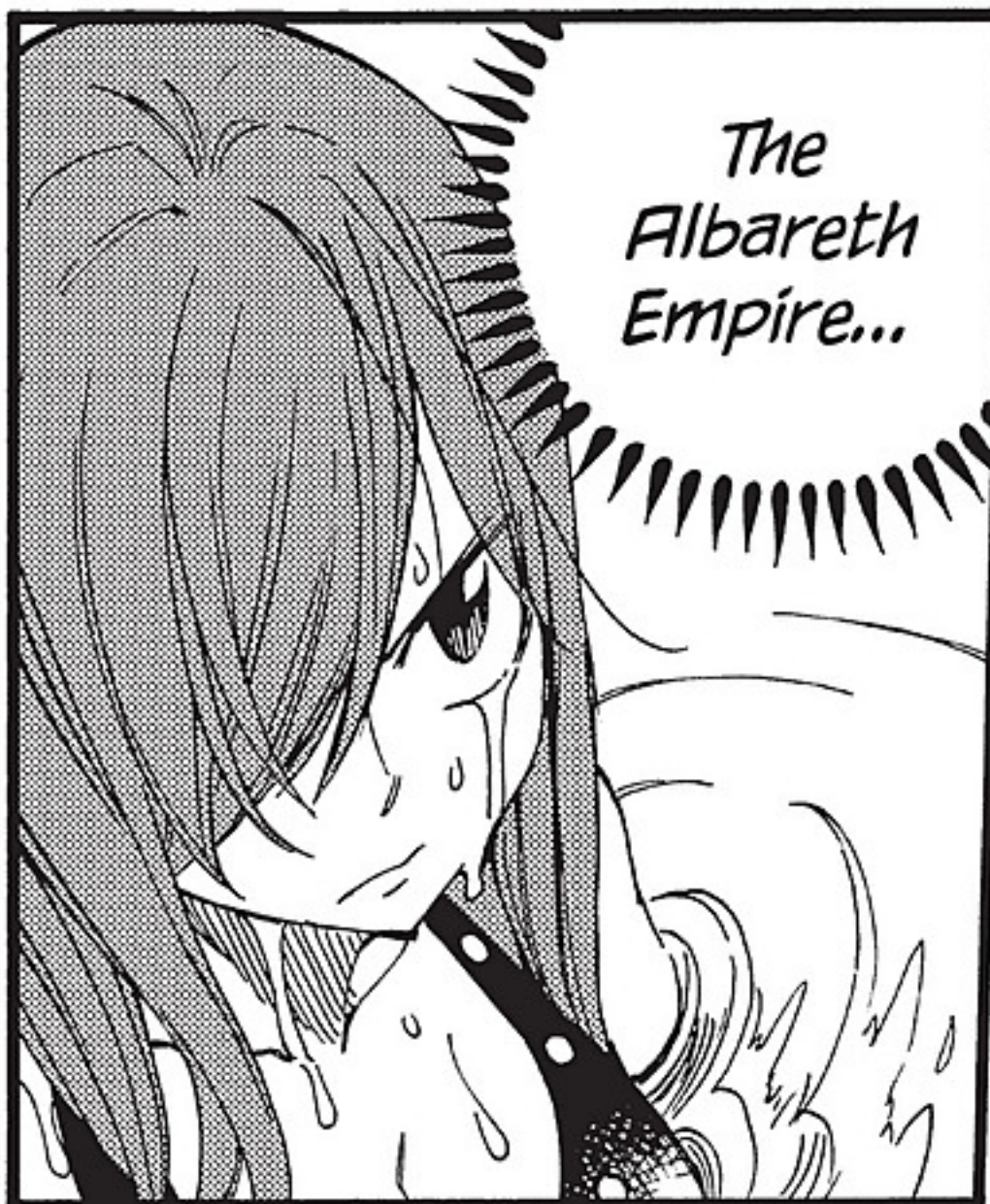
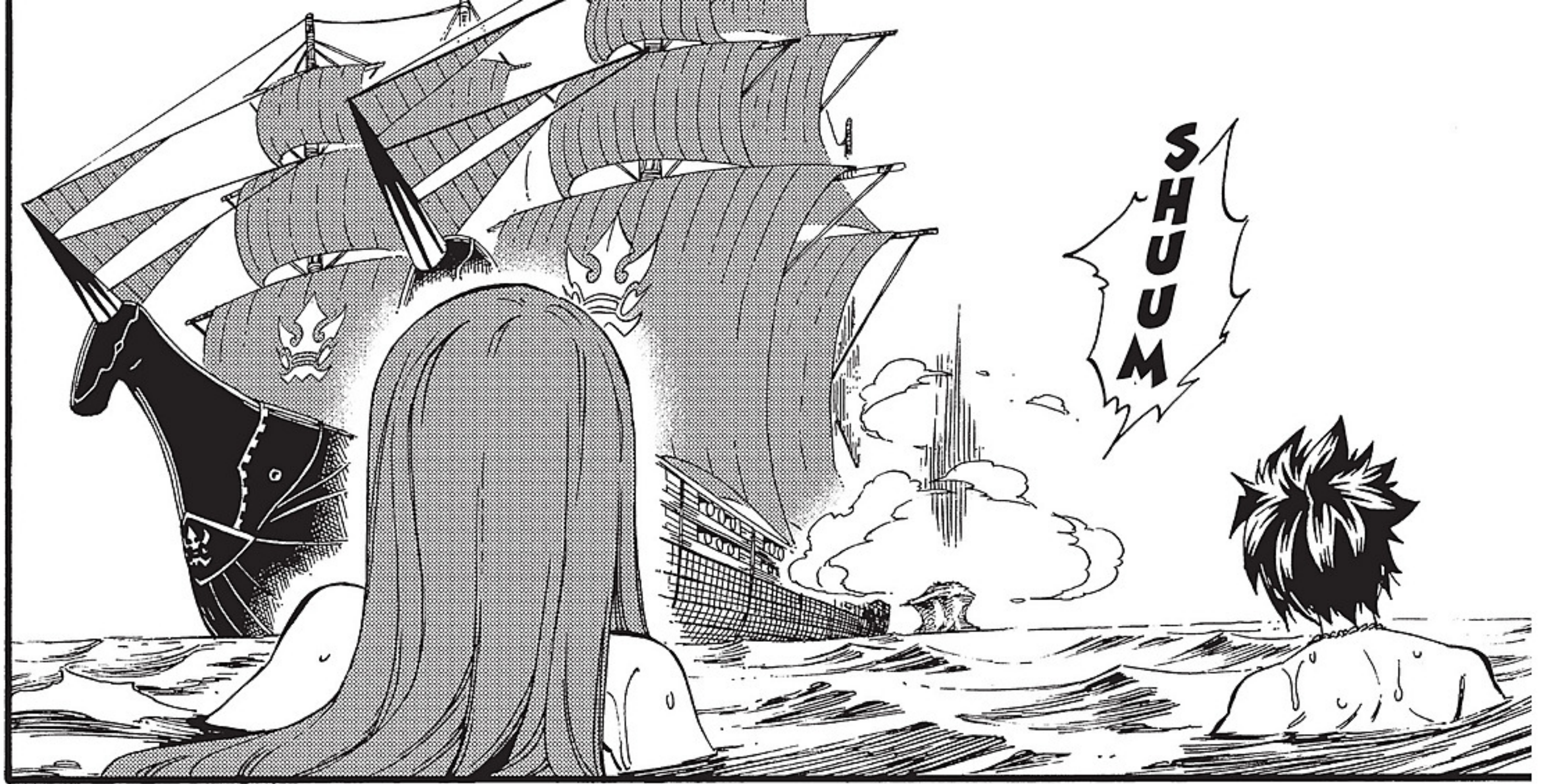




*...Fairy
Tail.*

BOOM



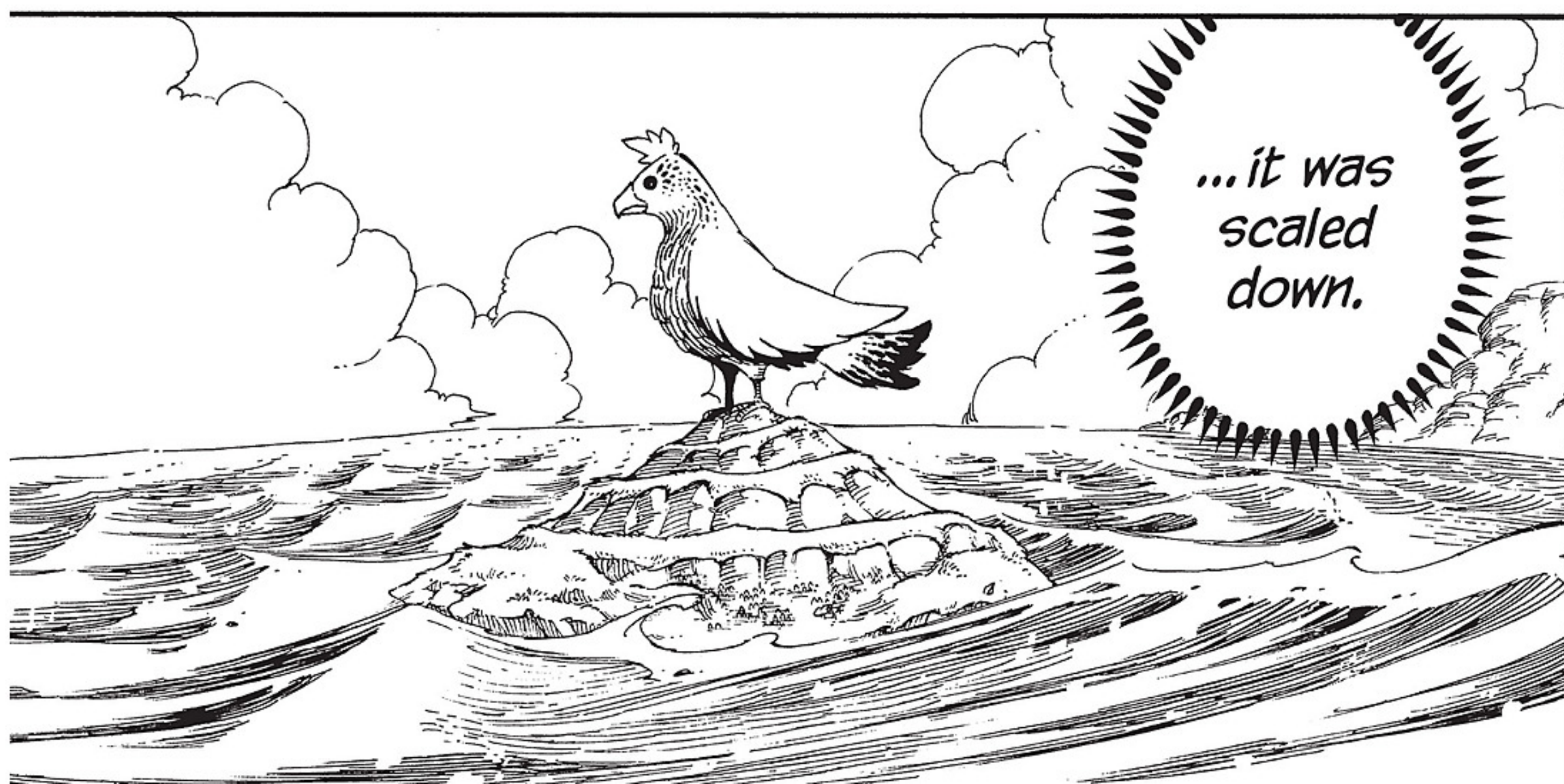
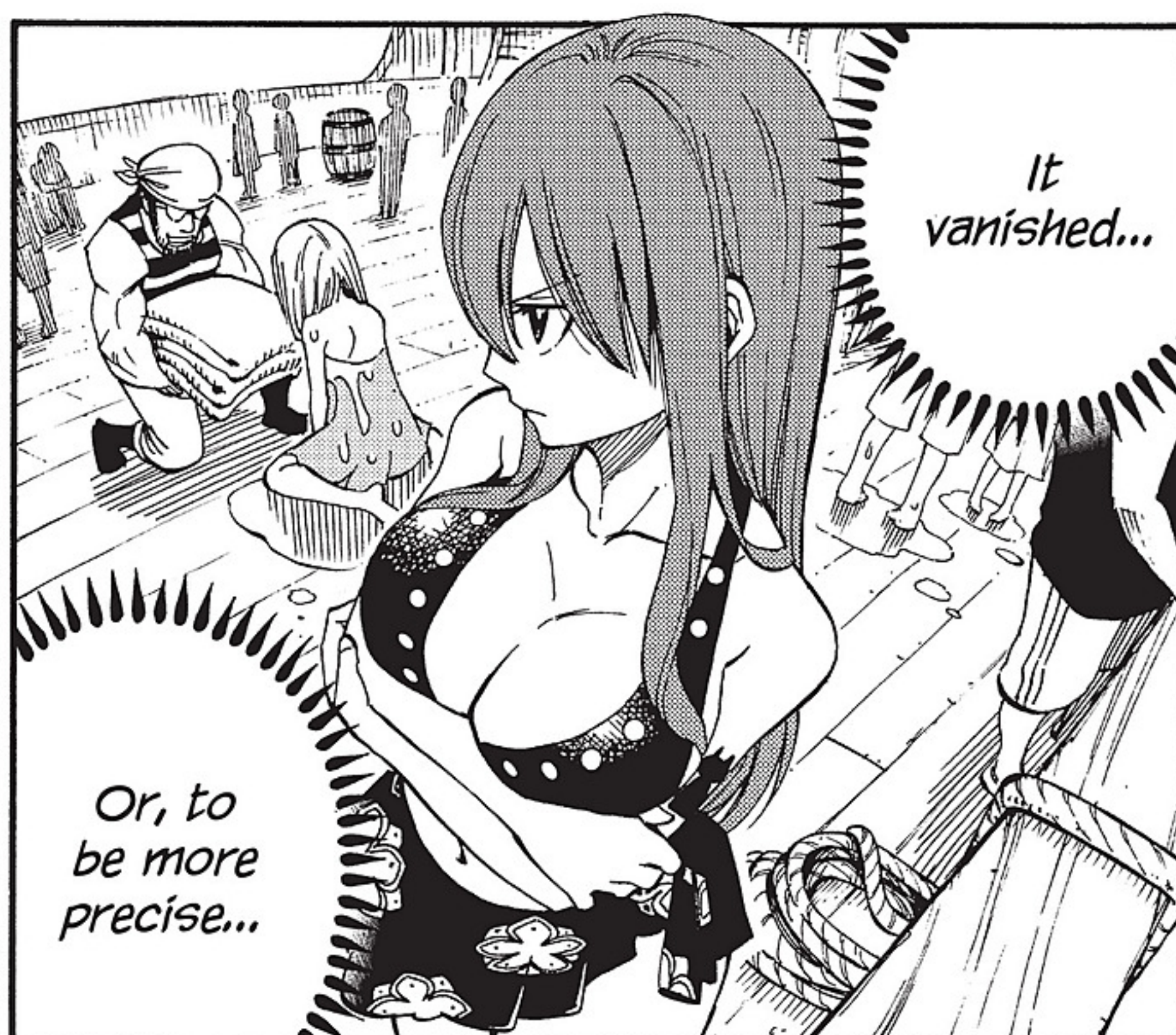
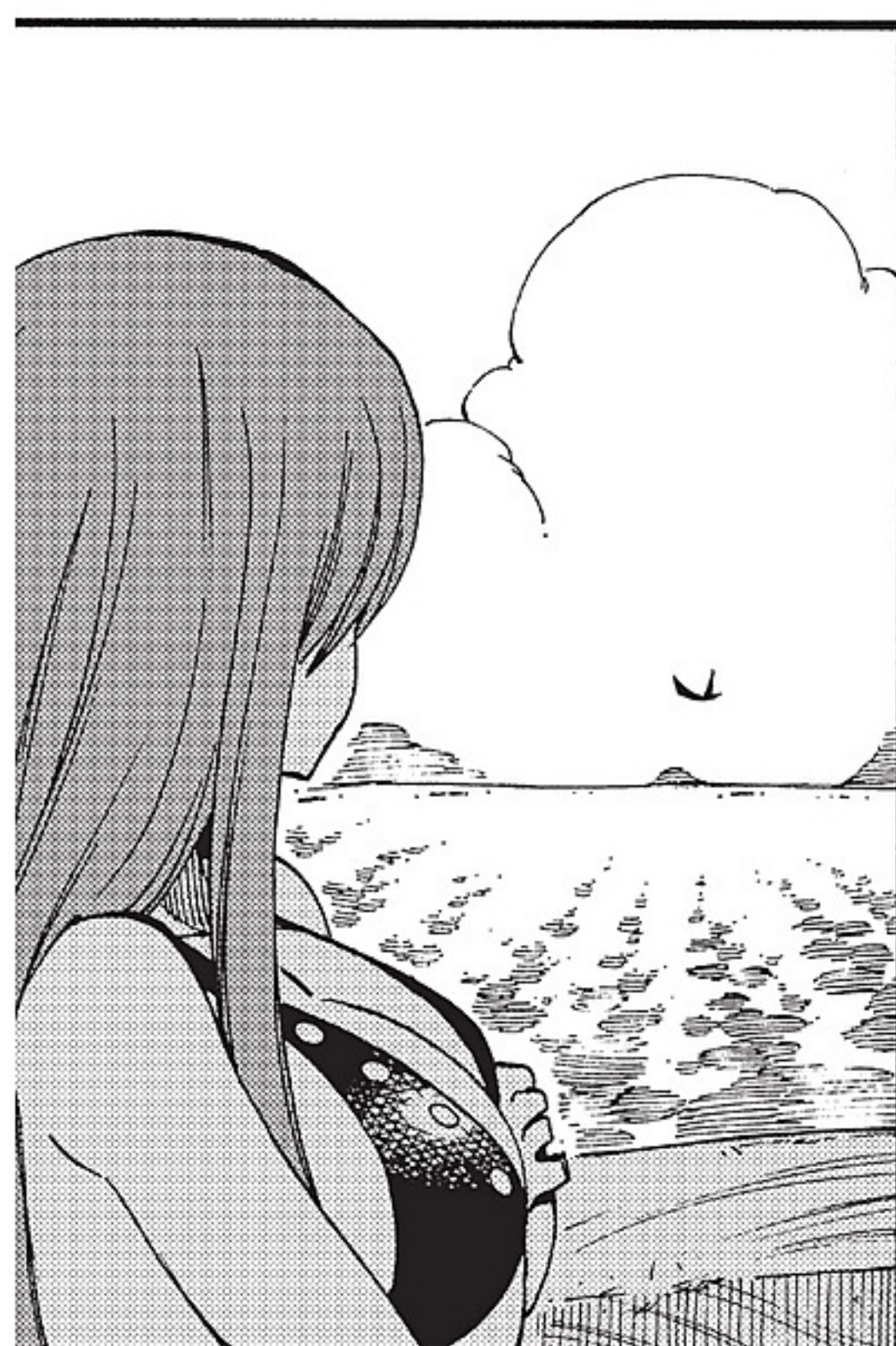
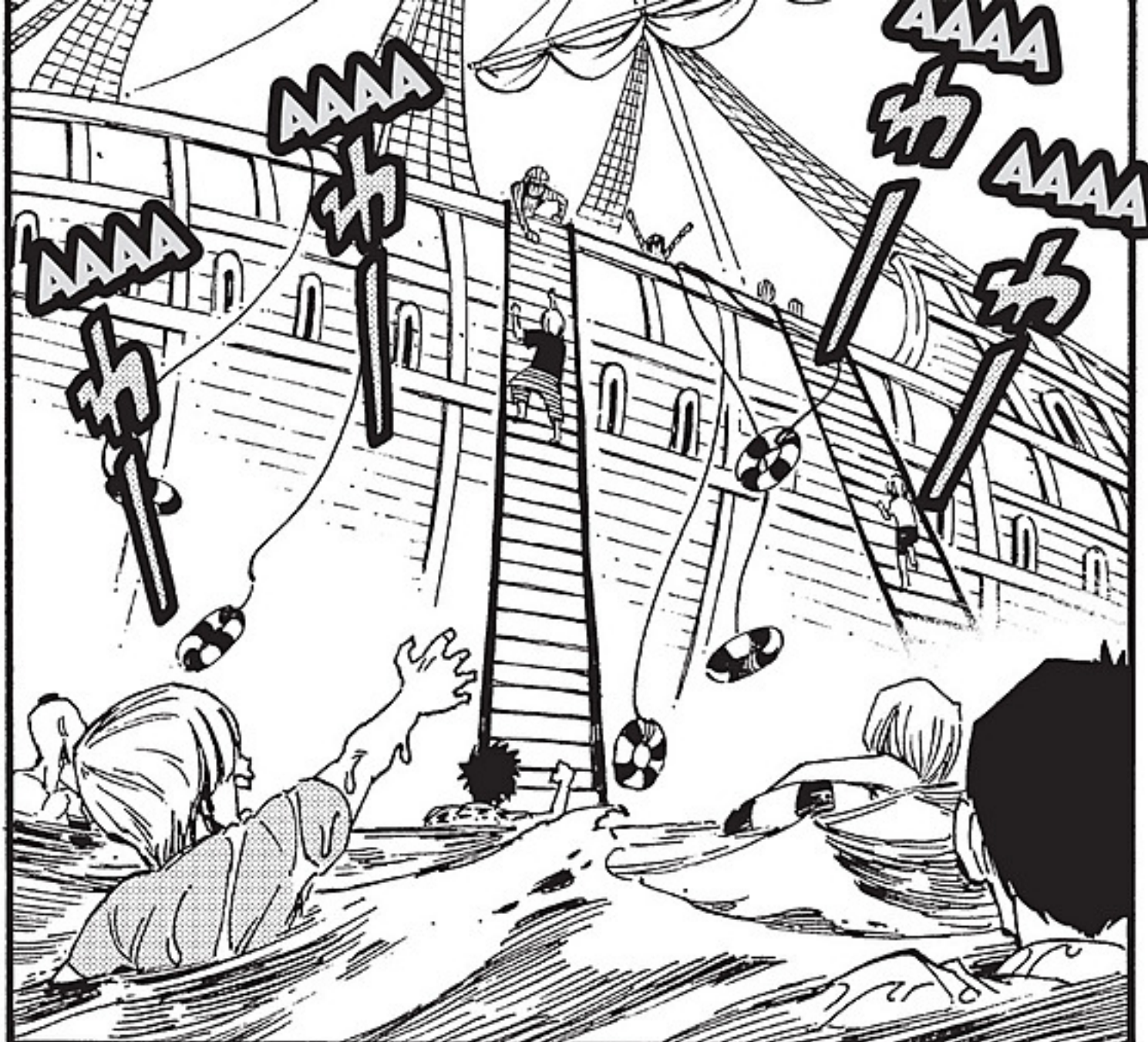


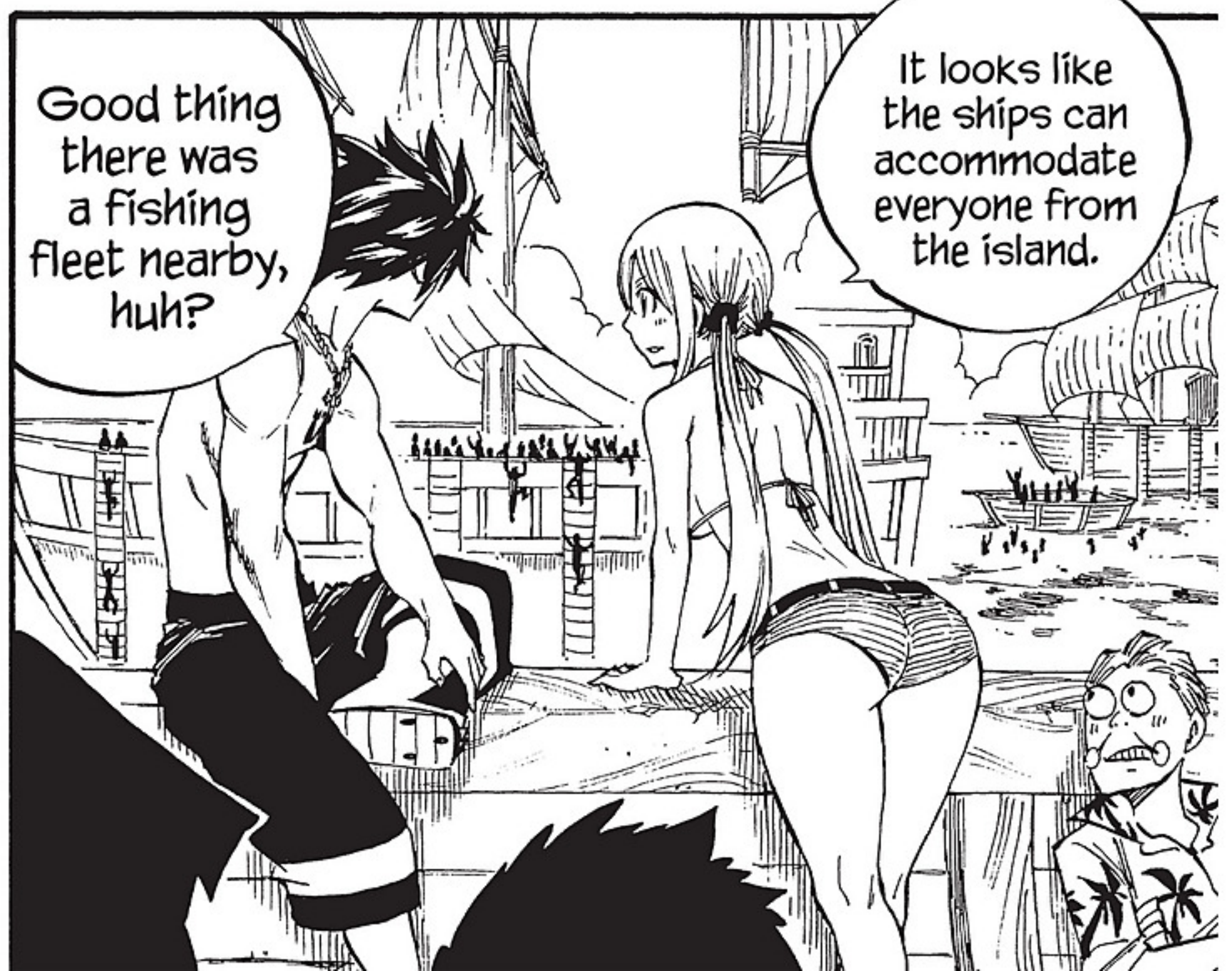
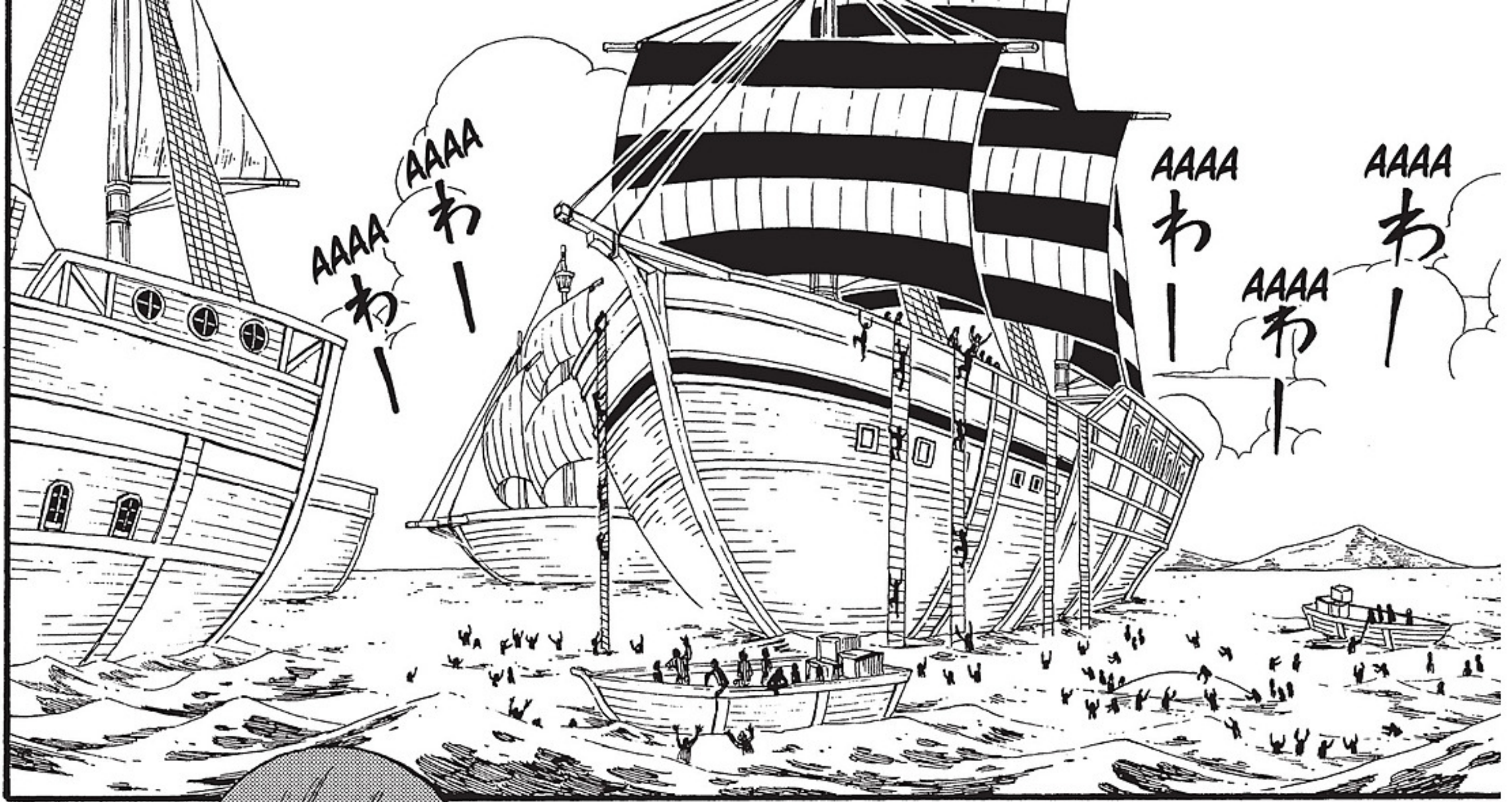
FAIRY TAIL

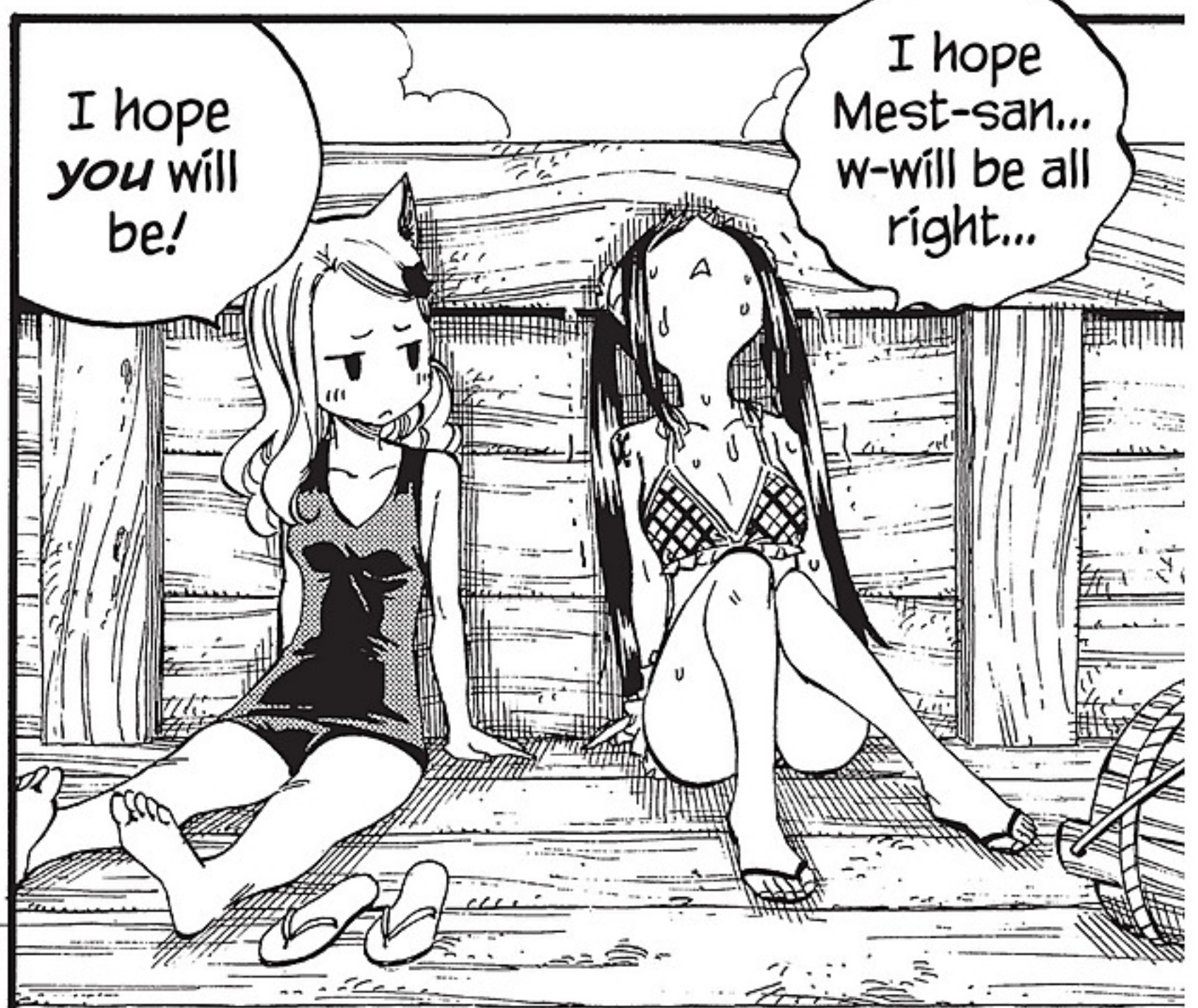
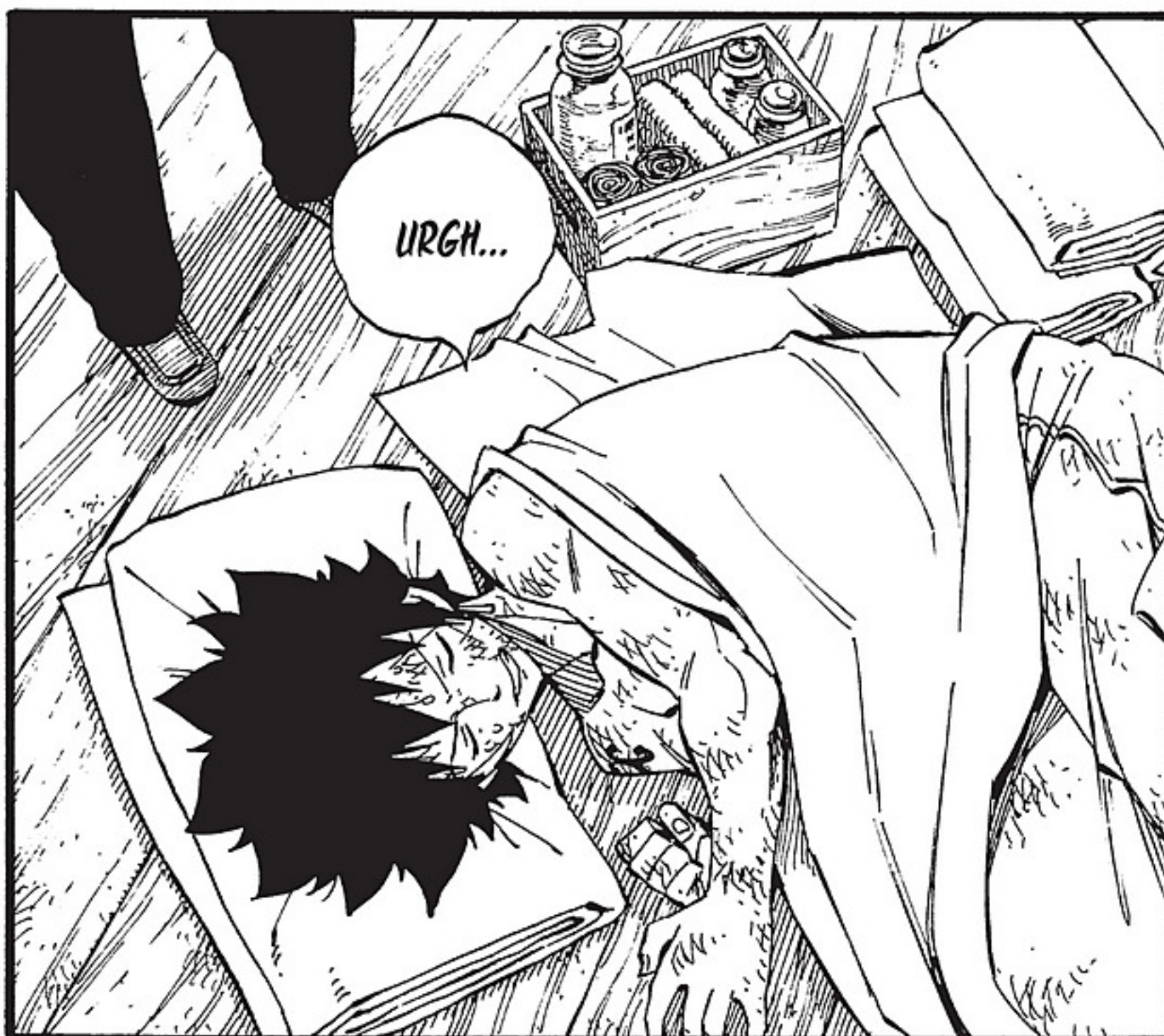
フェアリーテイル

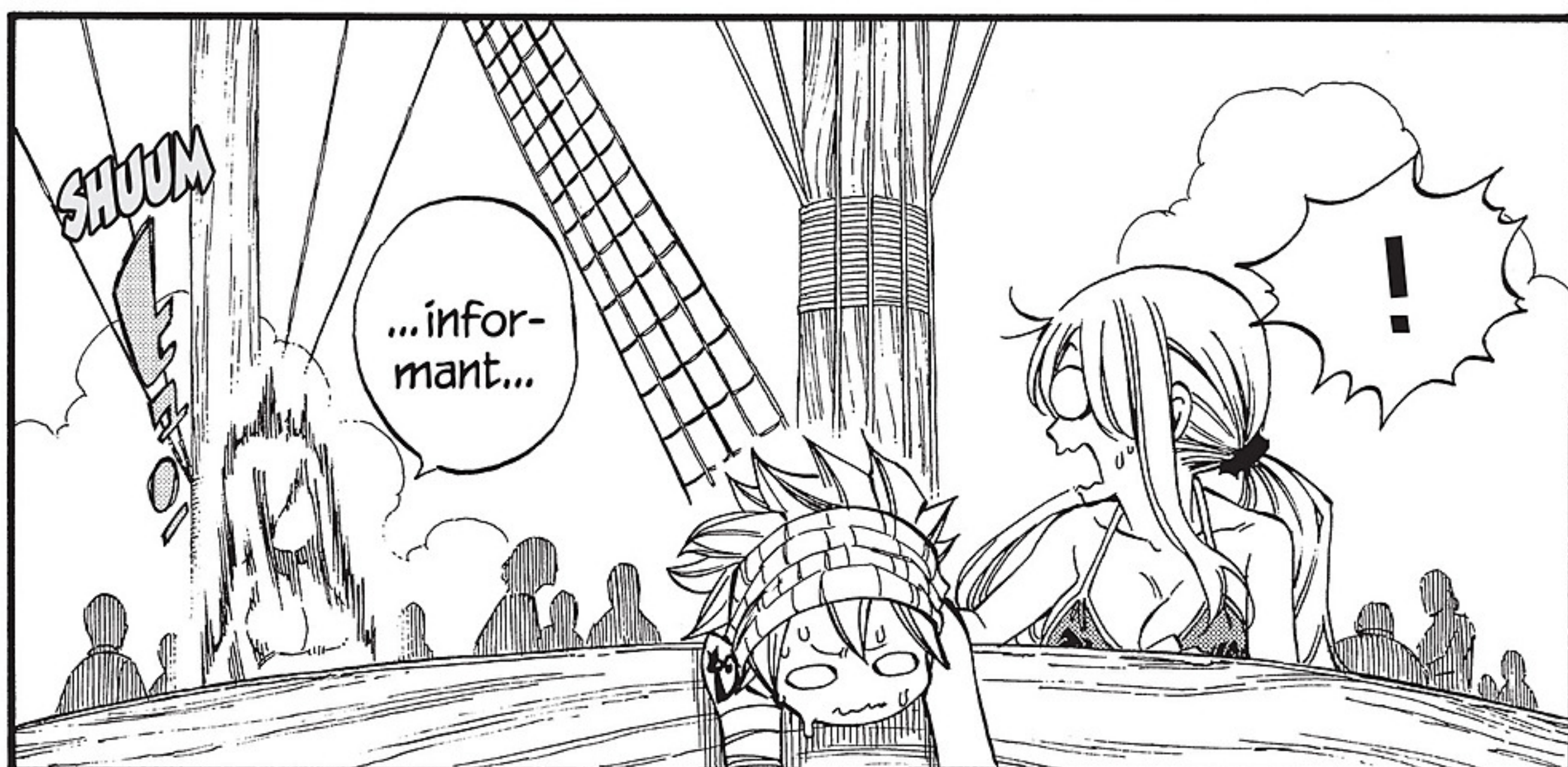
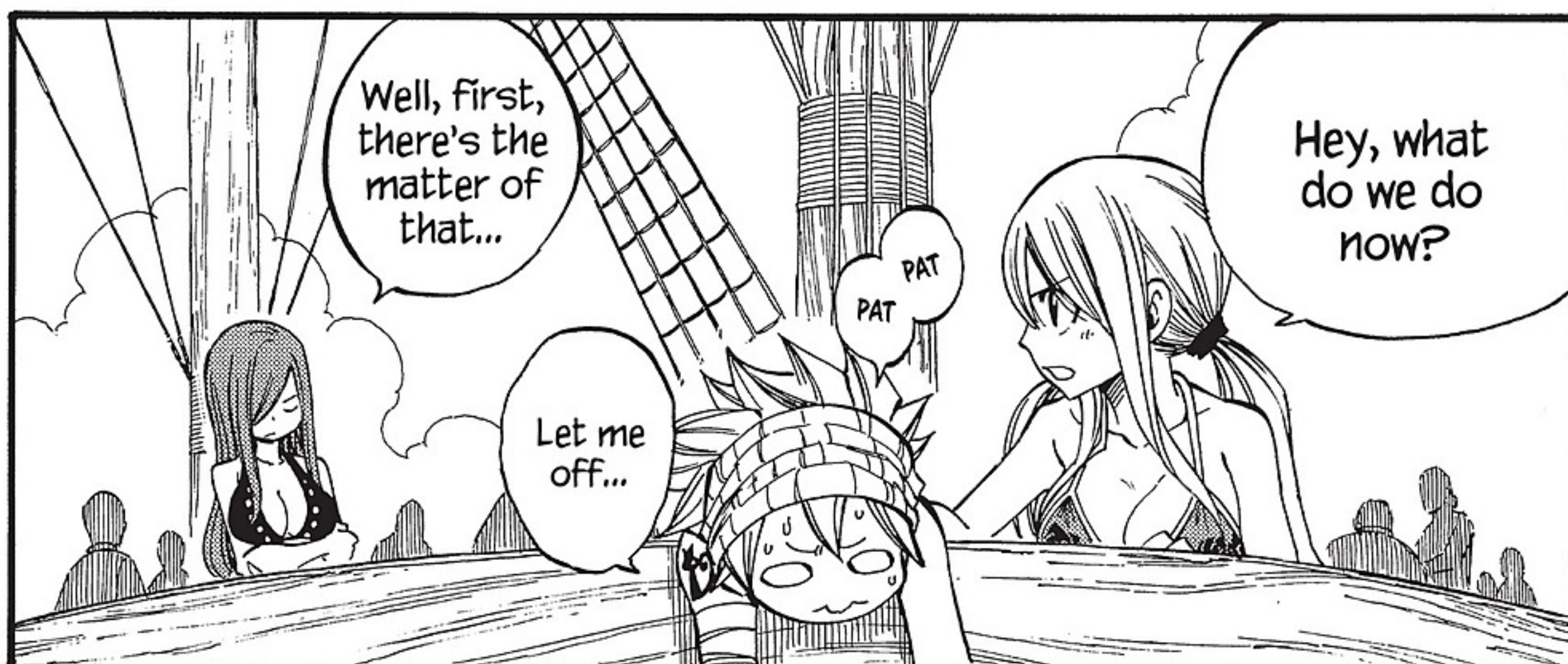
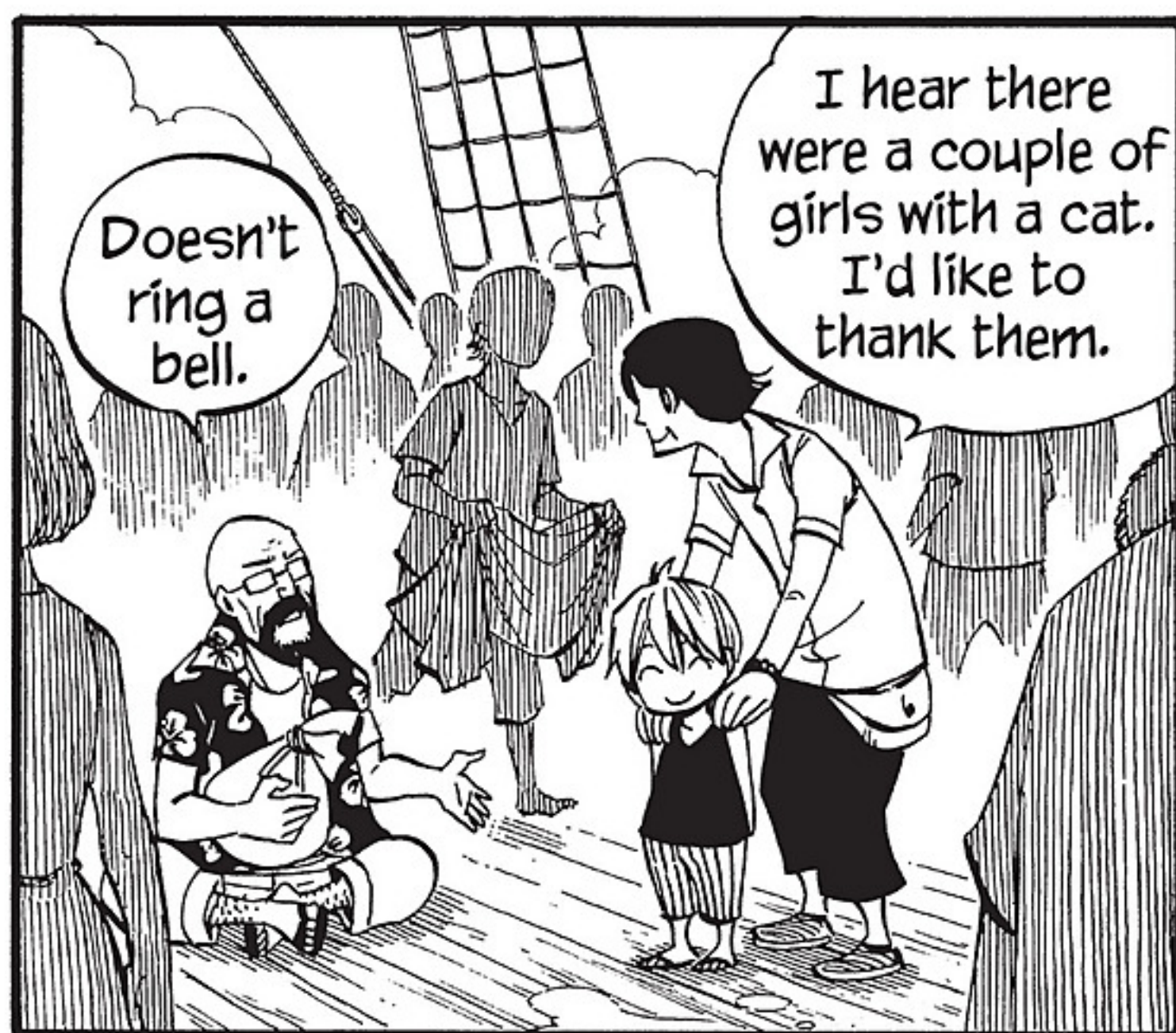
Chapter 444: Emperor Spriggan



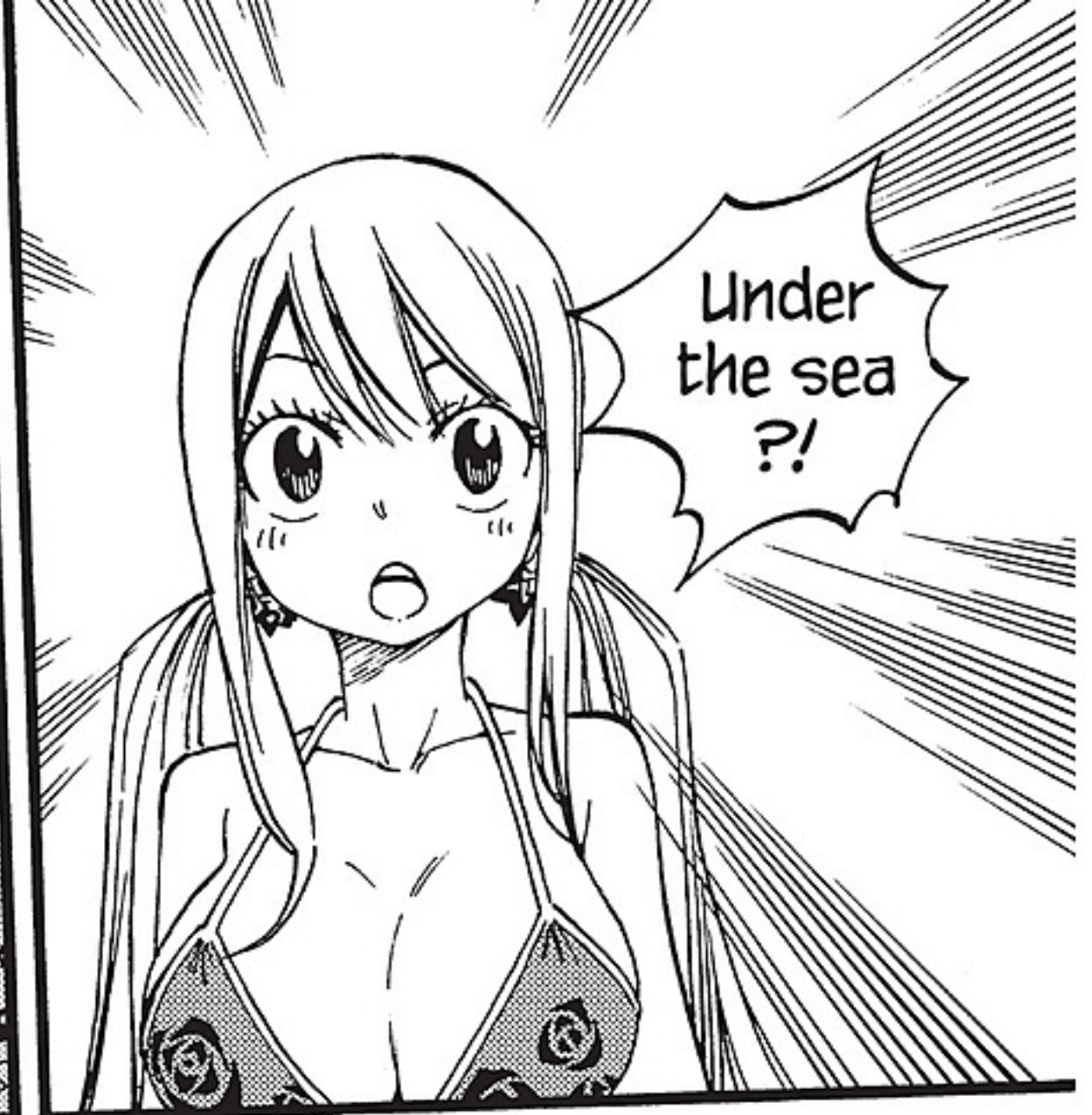
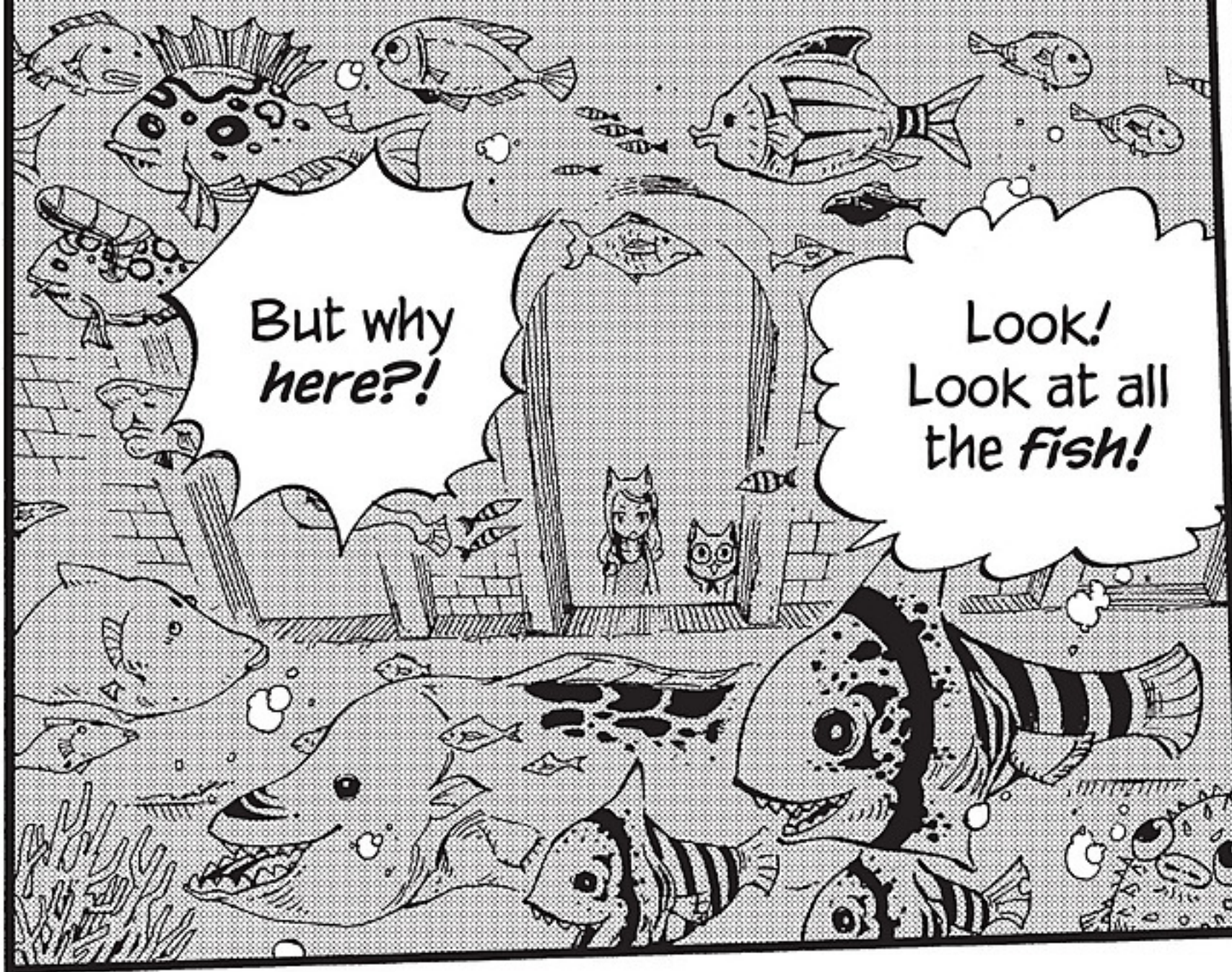


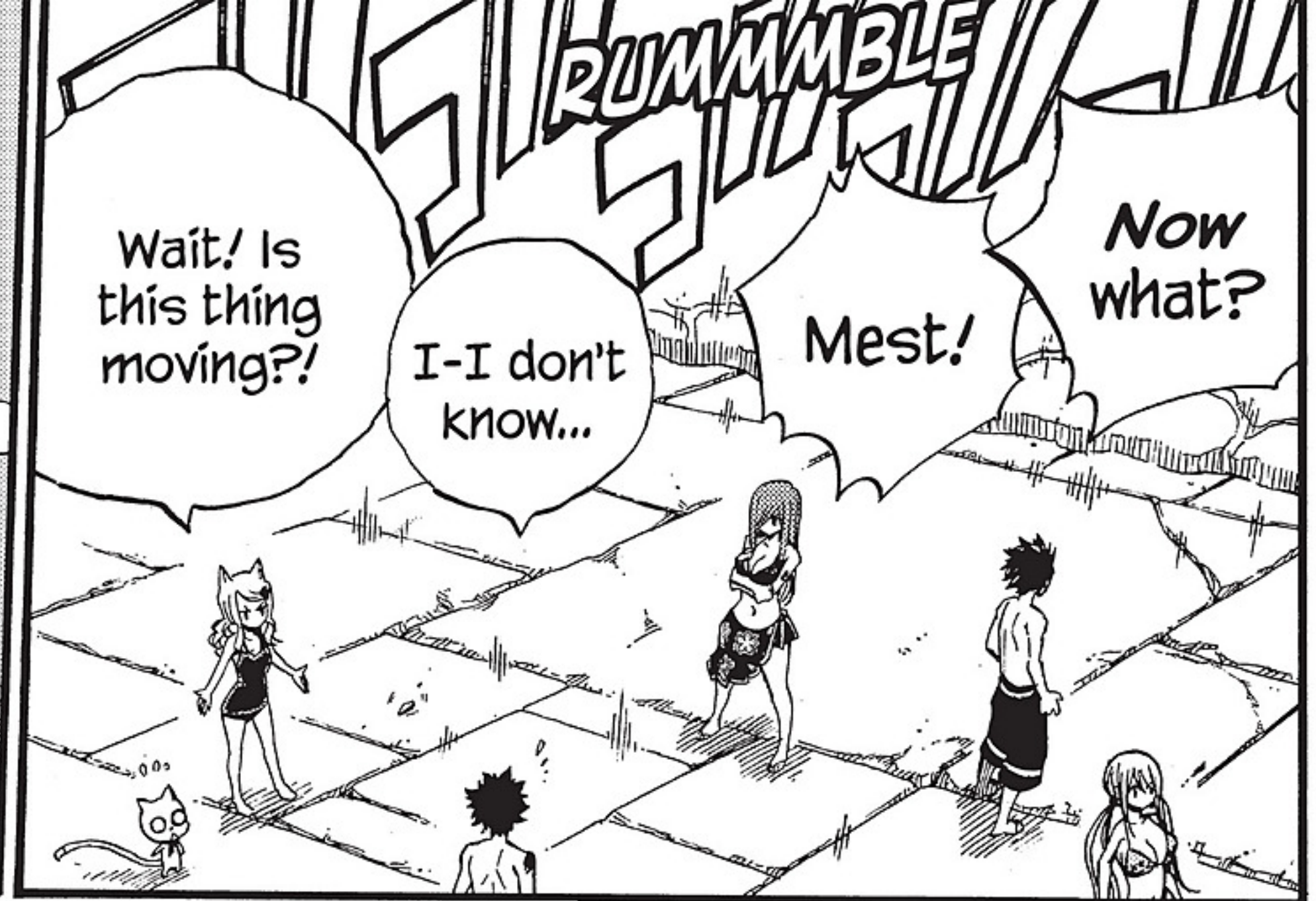


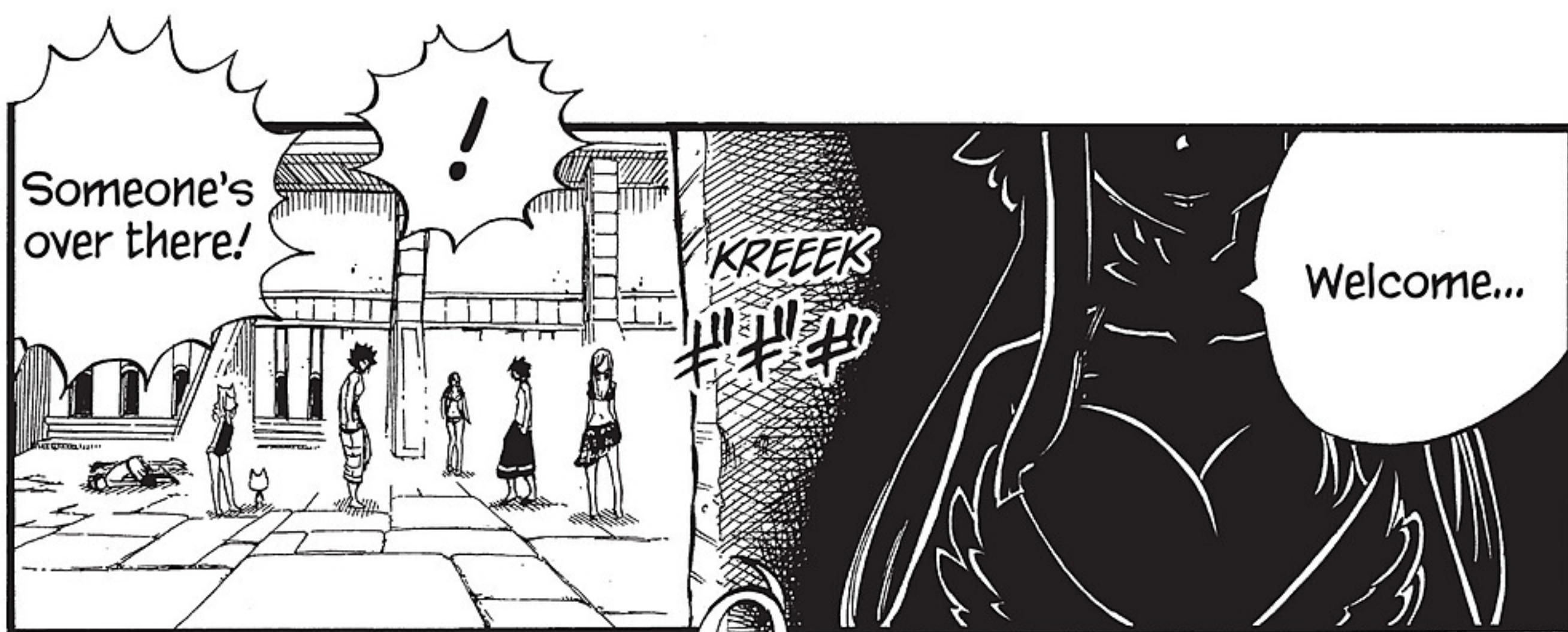


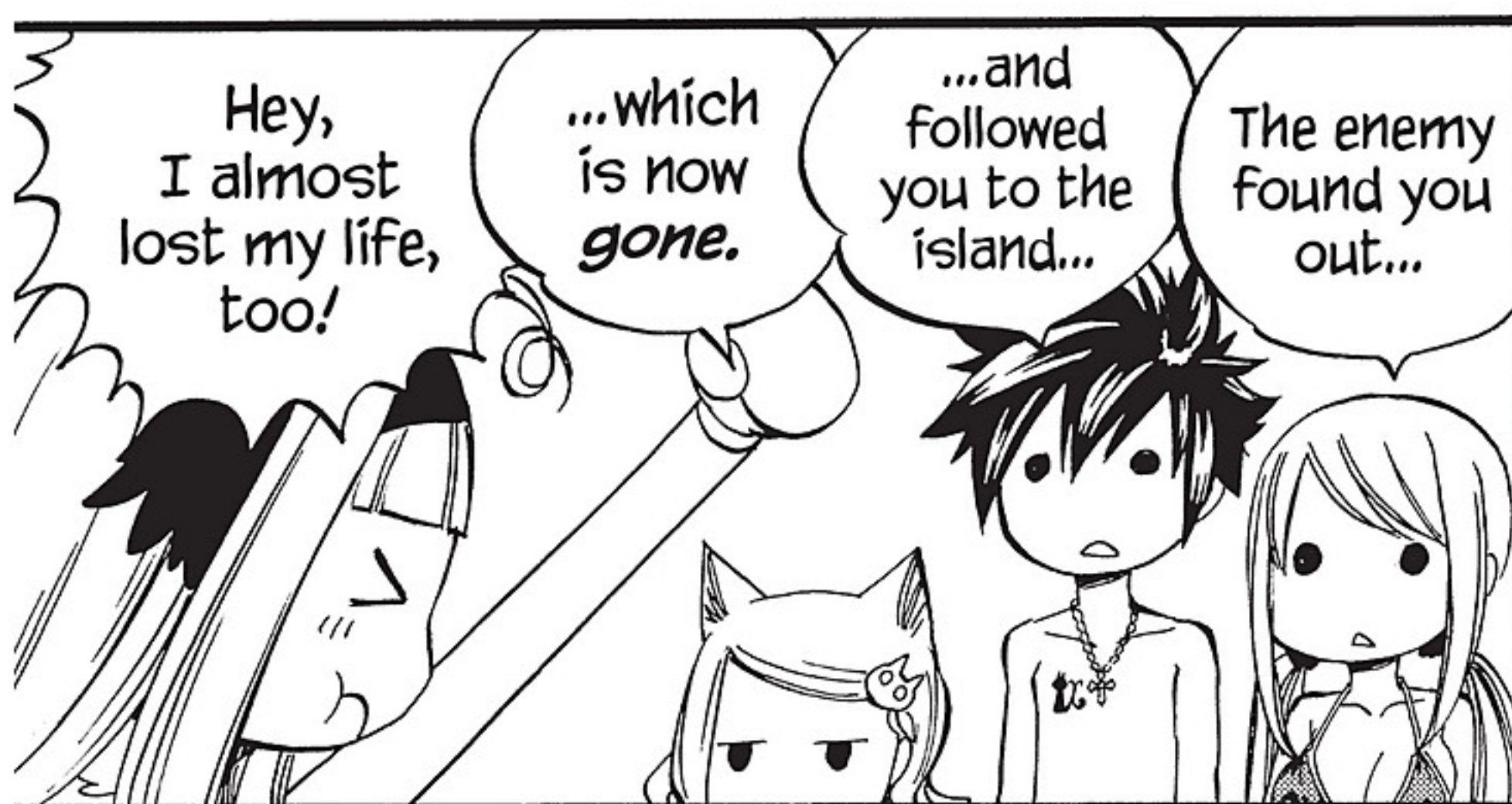
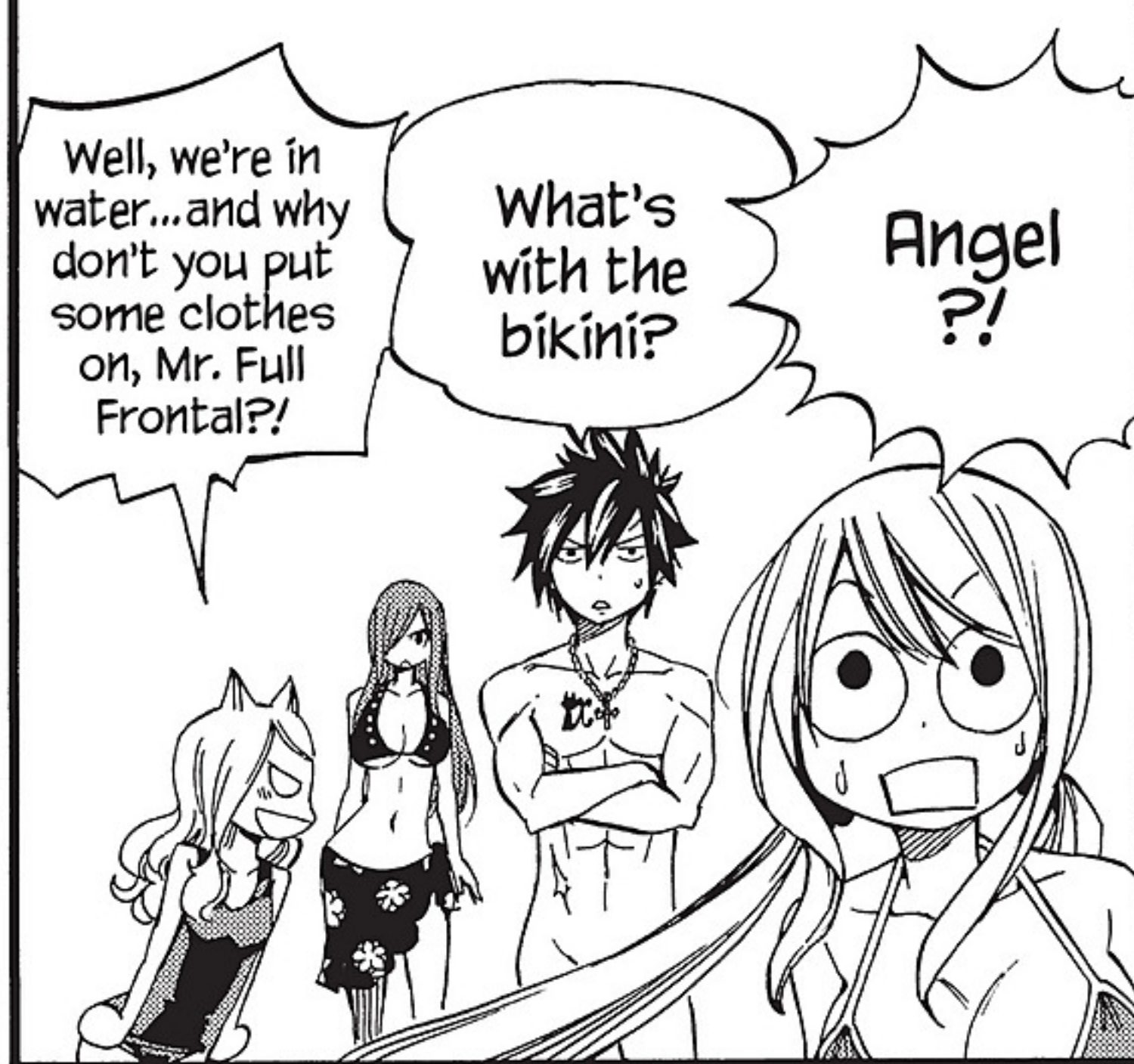




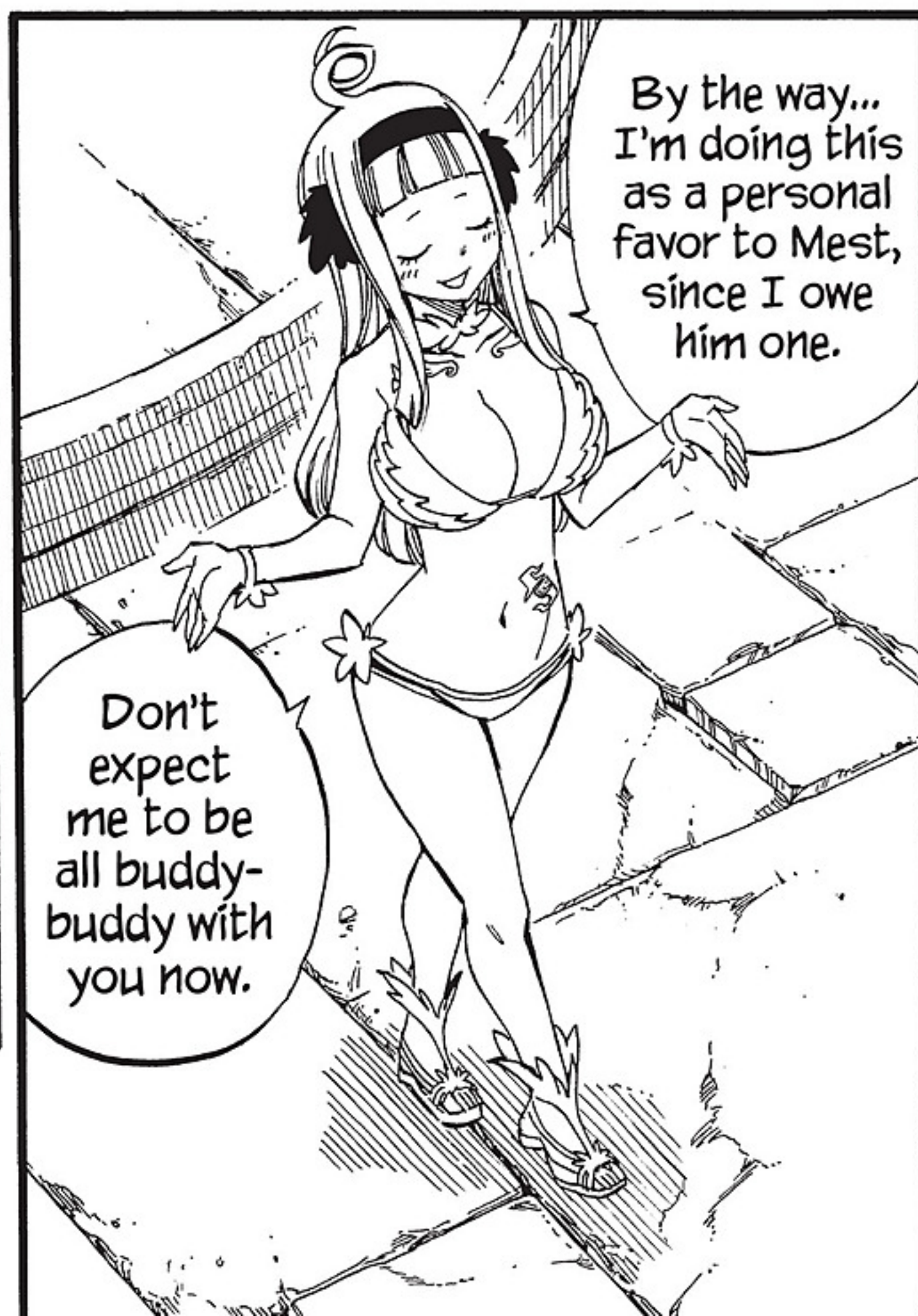
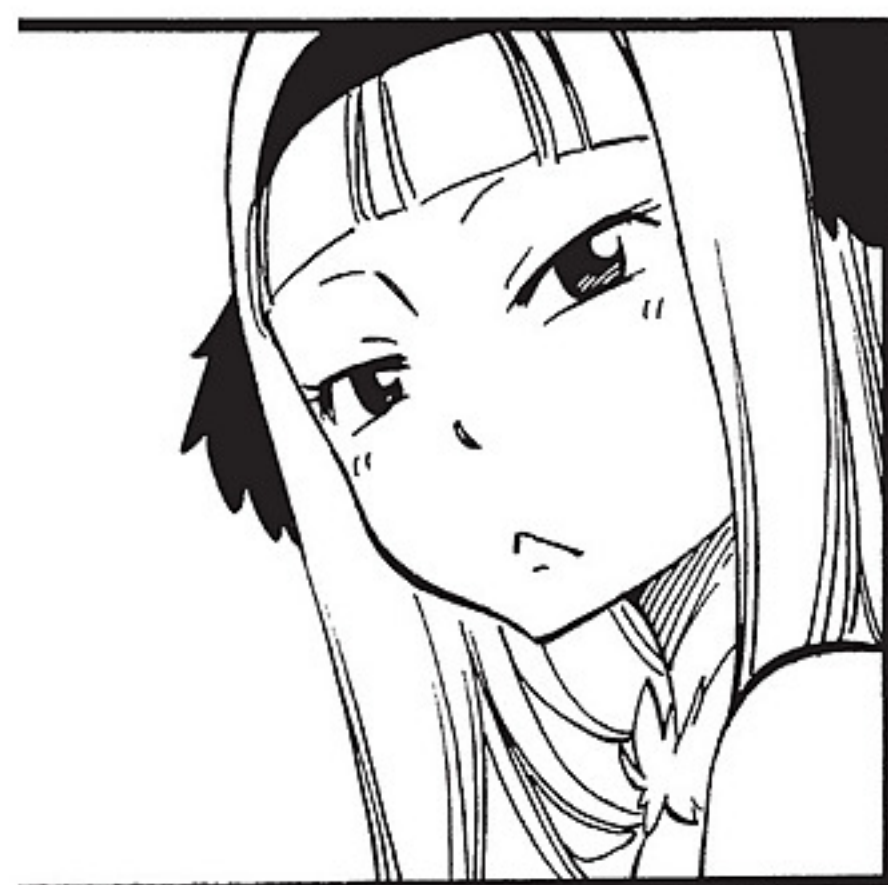


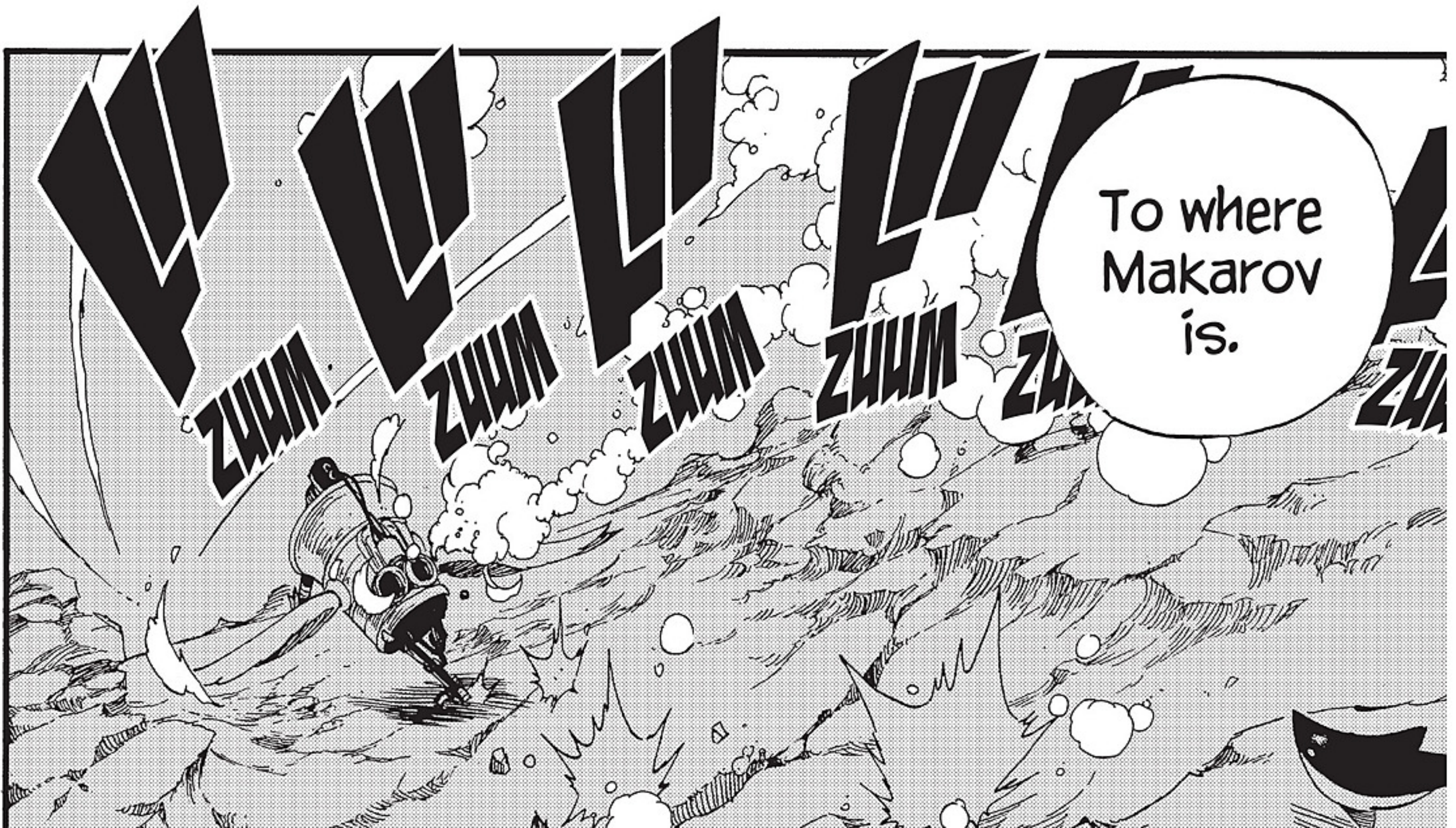
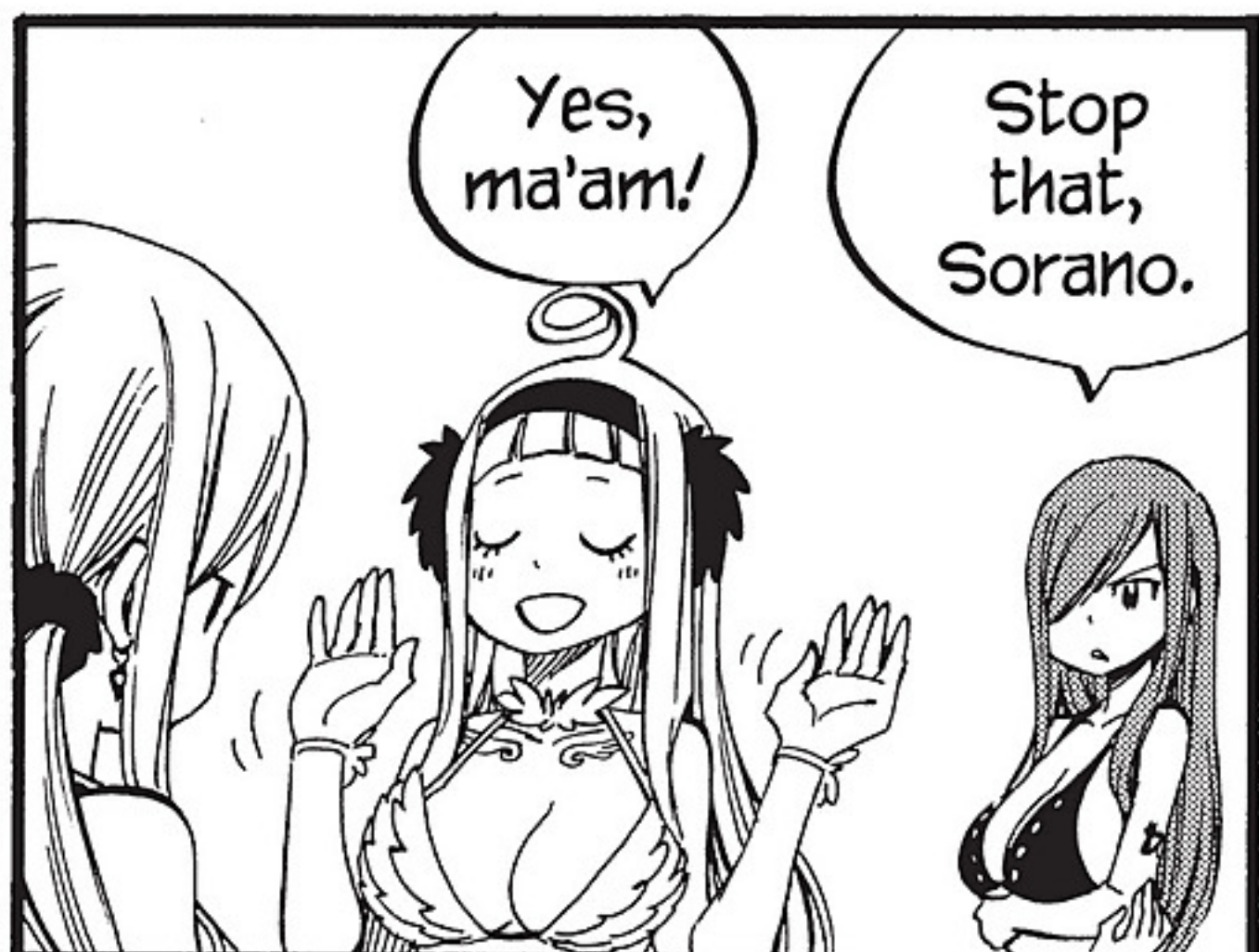
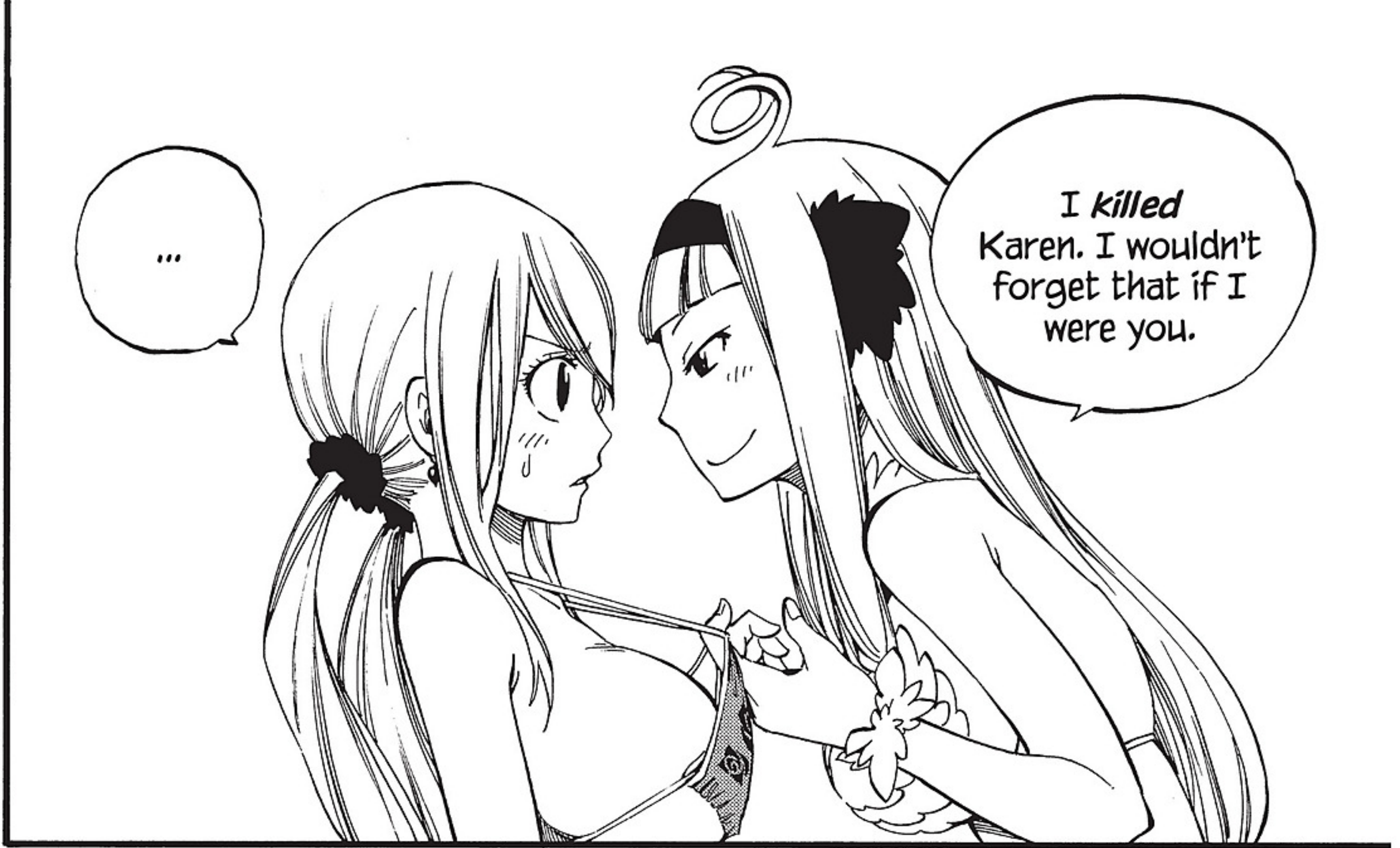


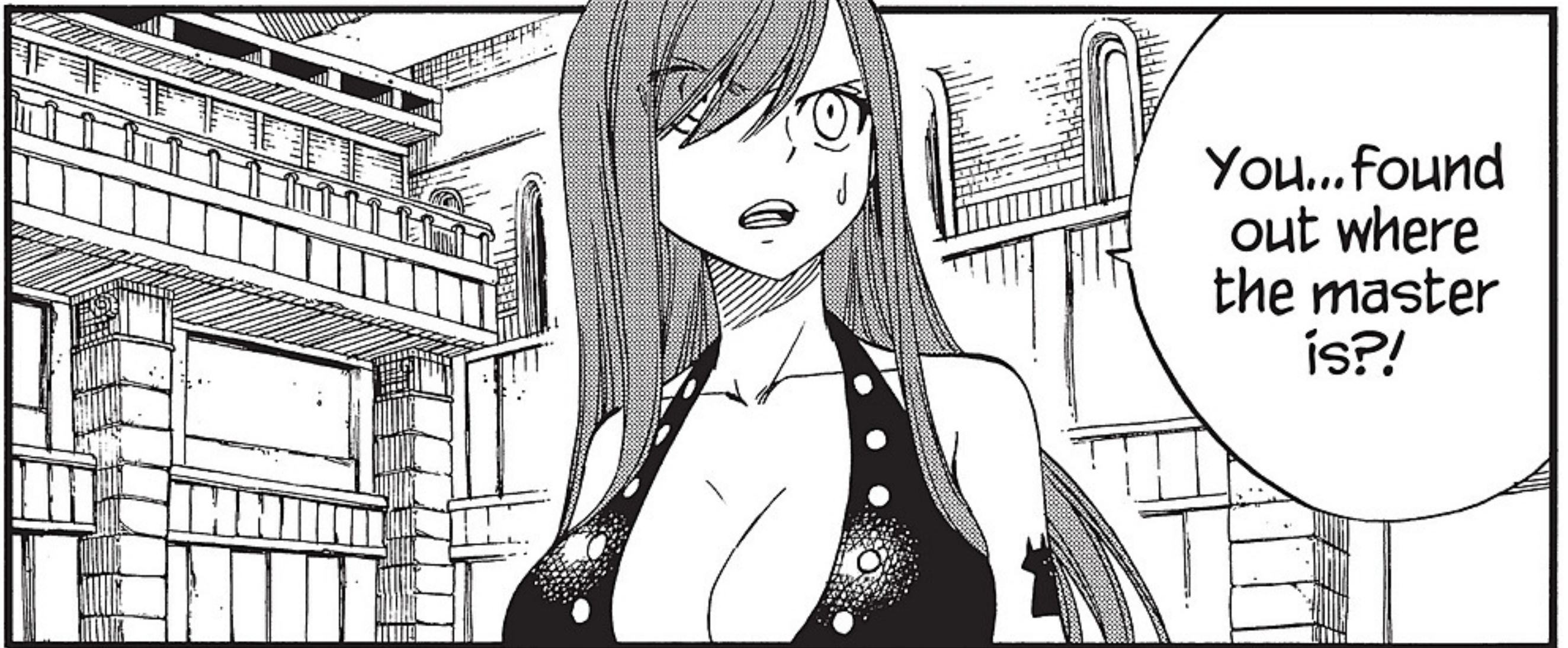
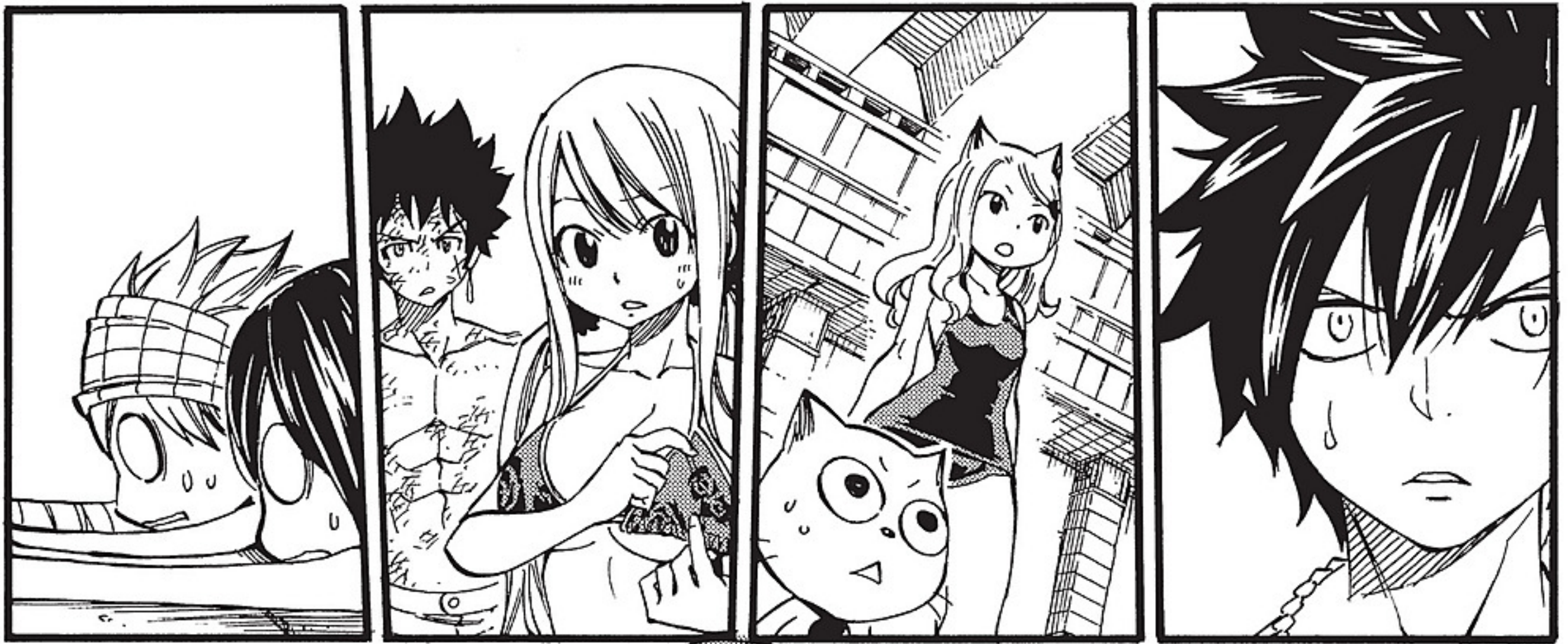


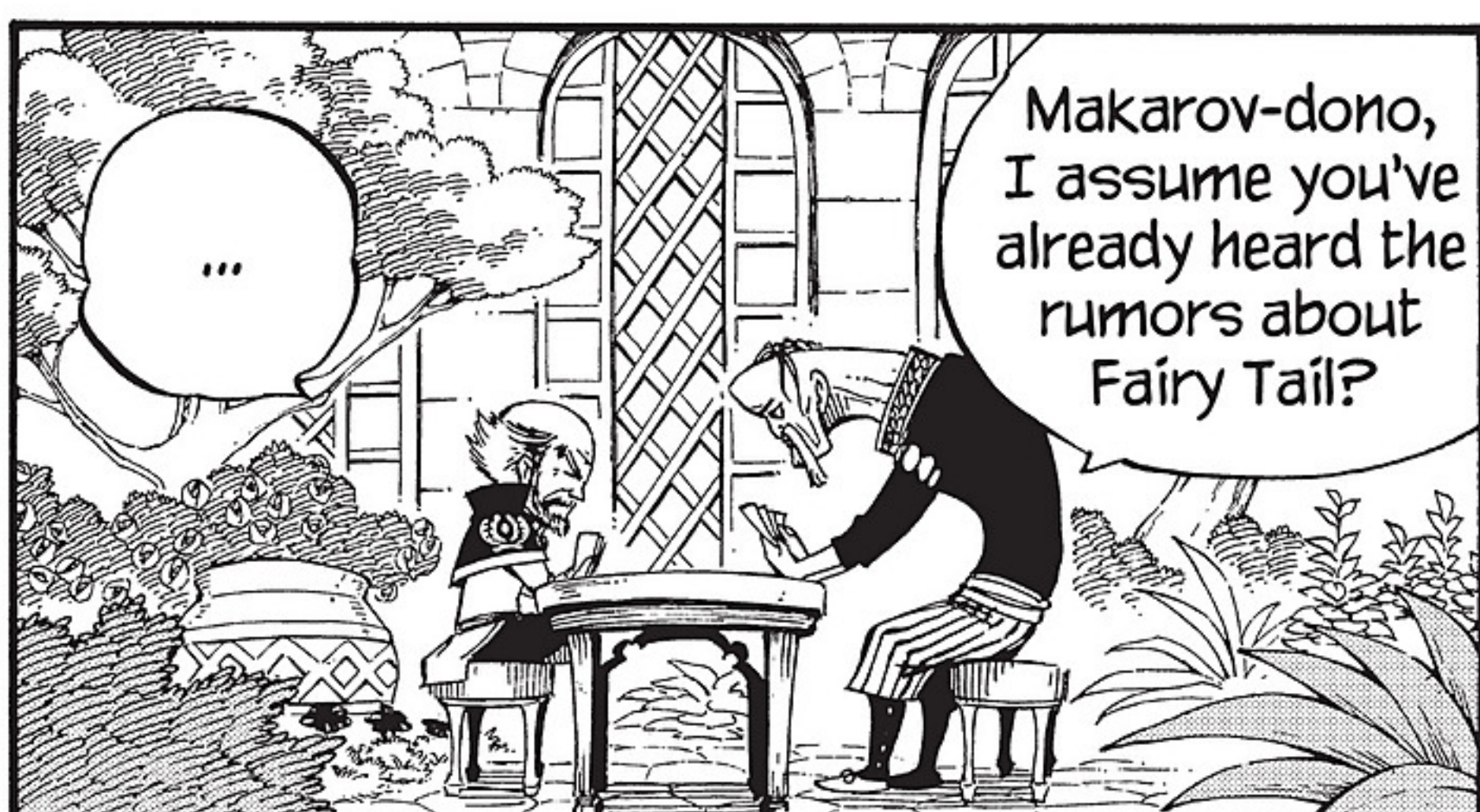


*Cobra

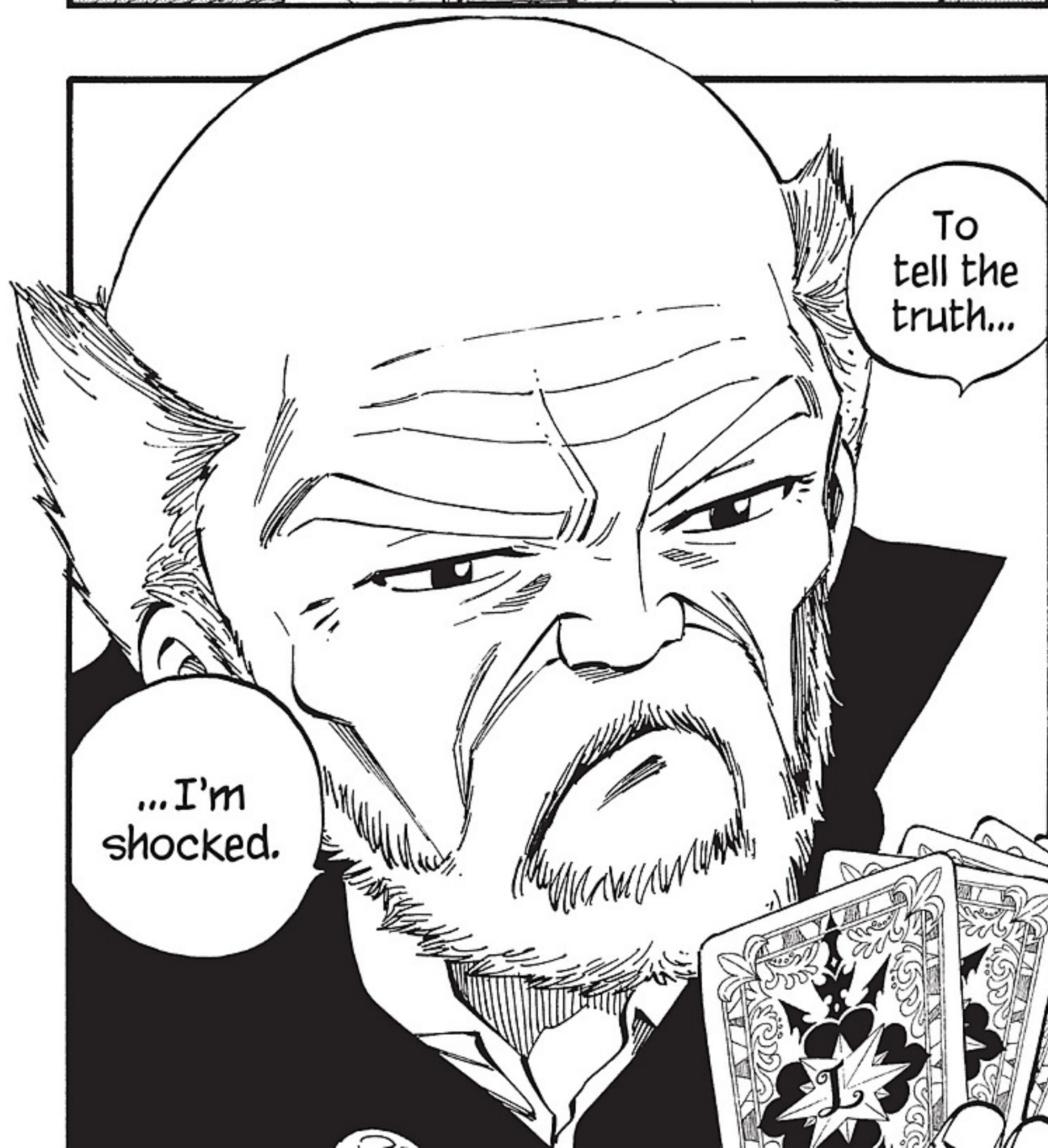








Makarov-dono,
I assume you've
already heard the
rumors about
Fairy Tail?

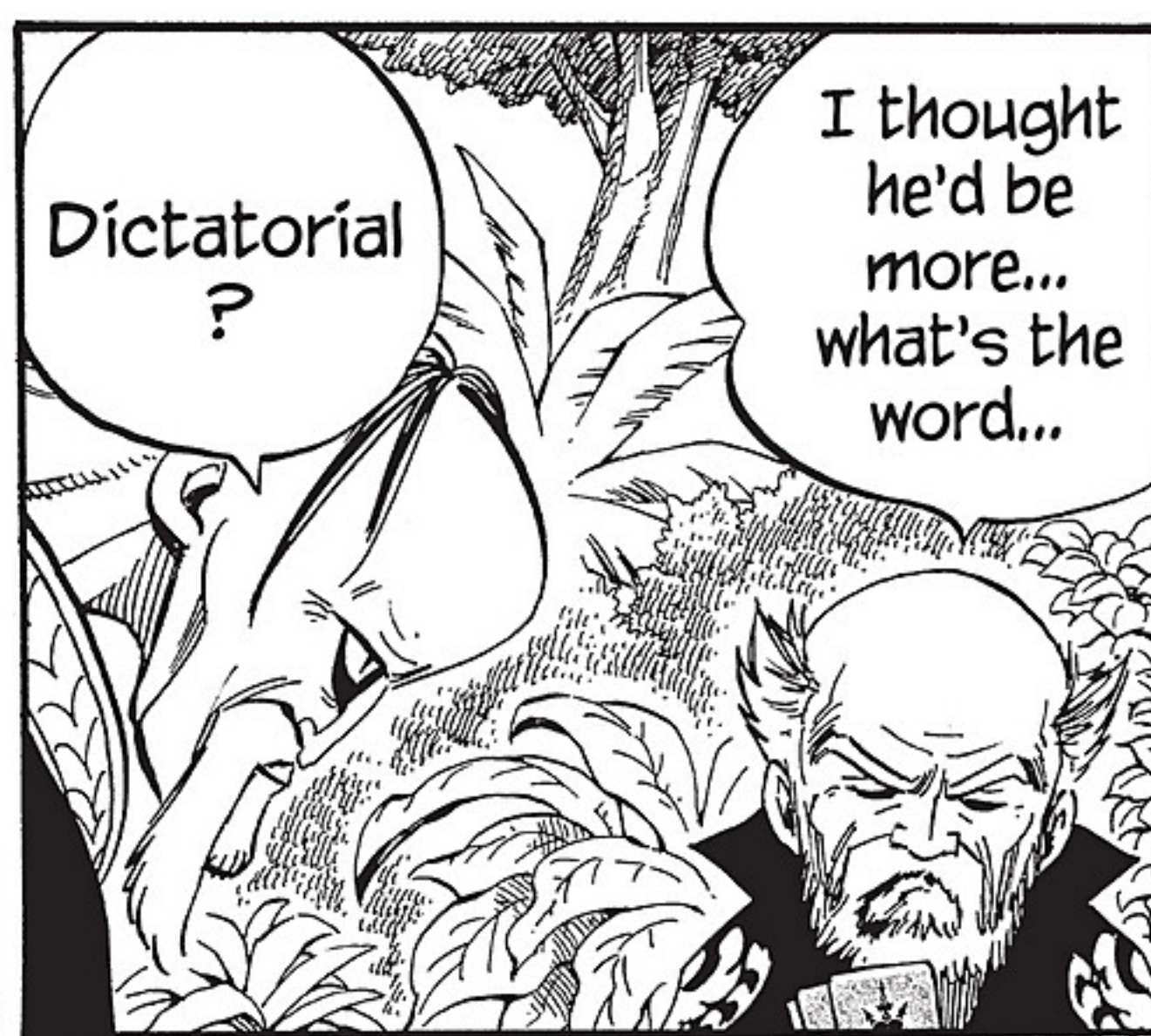
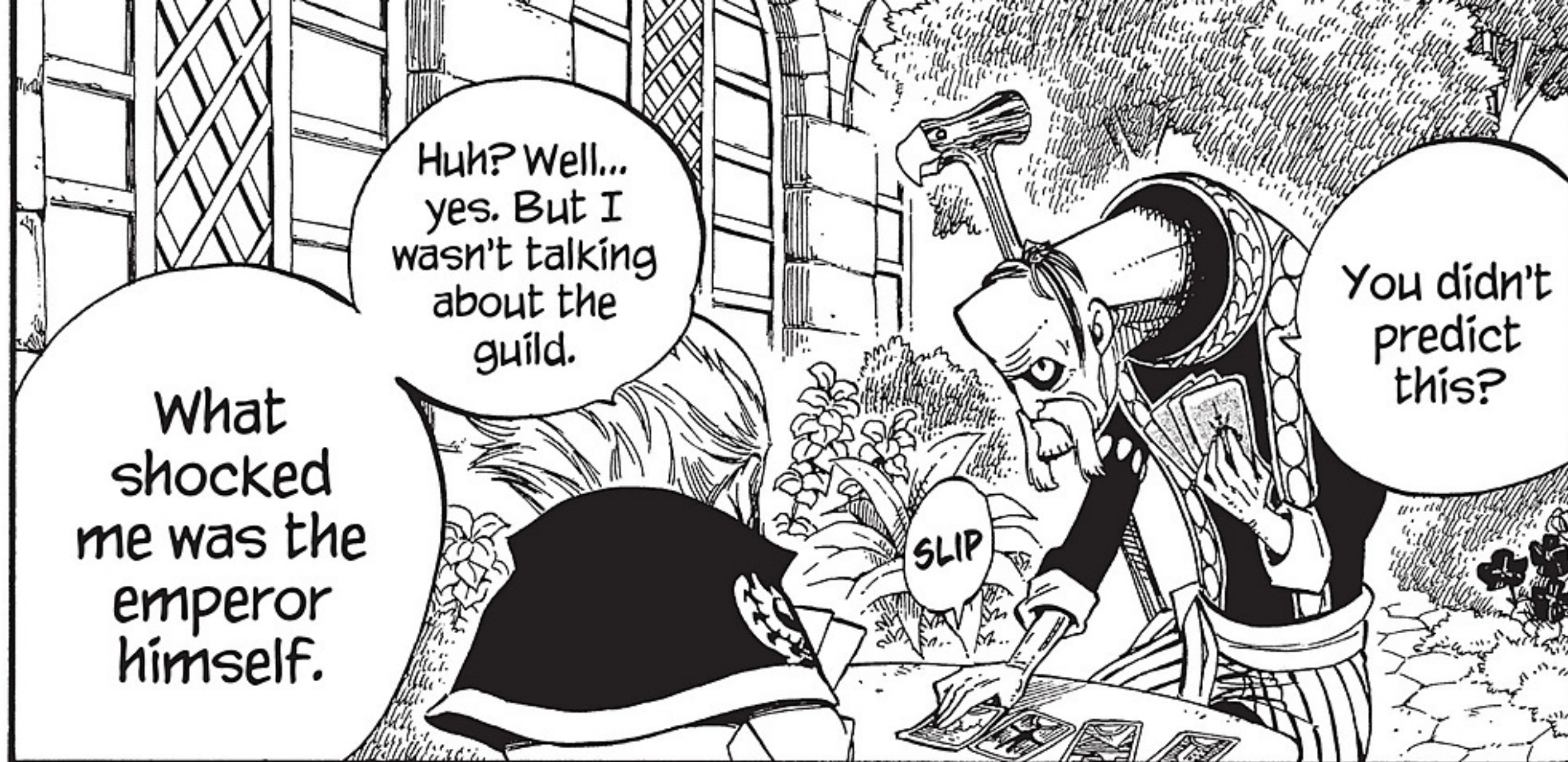


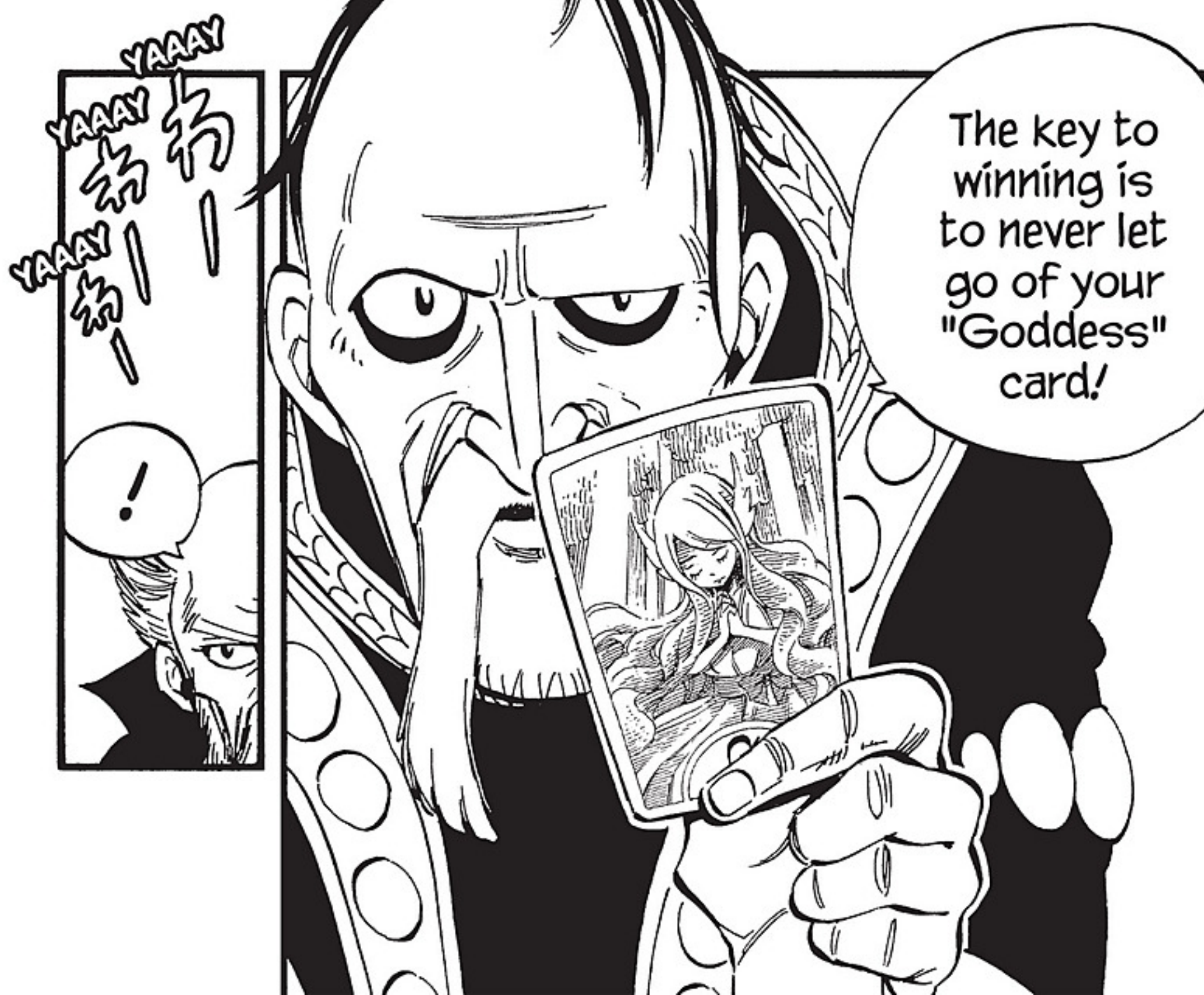
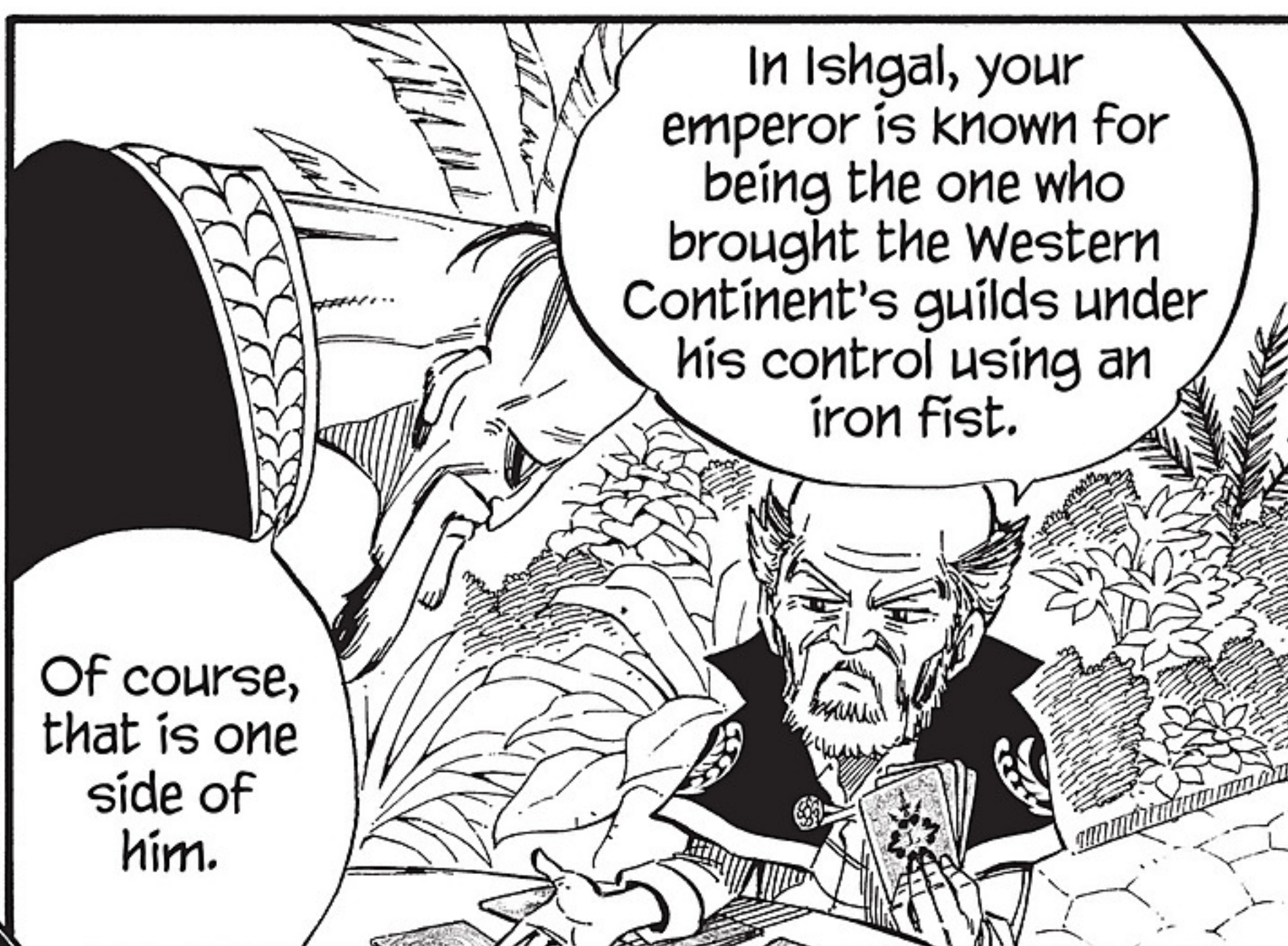
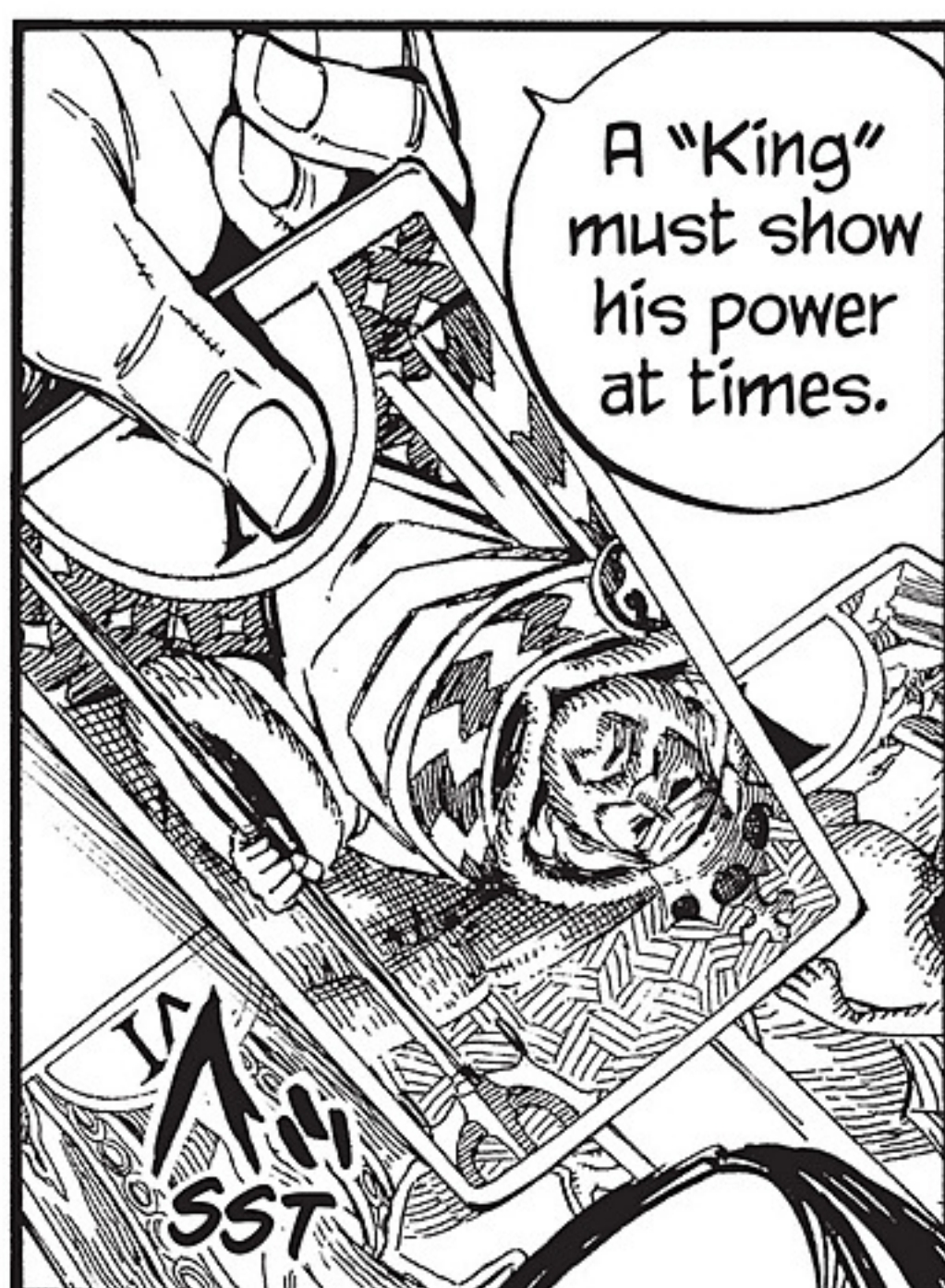
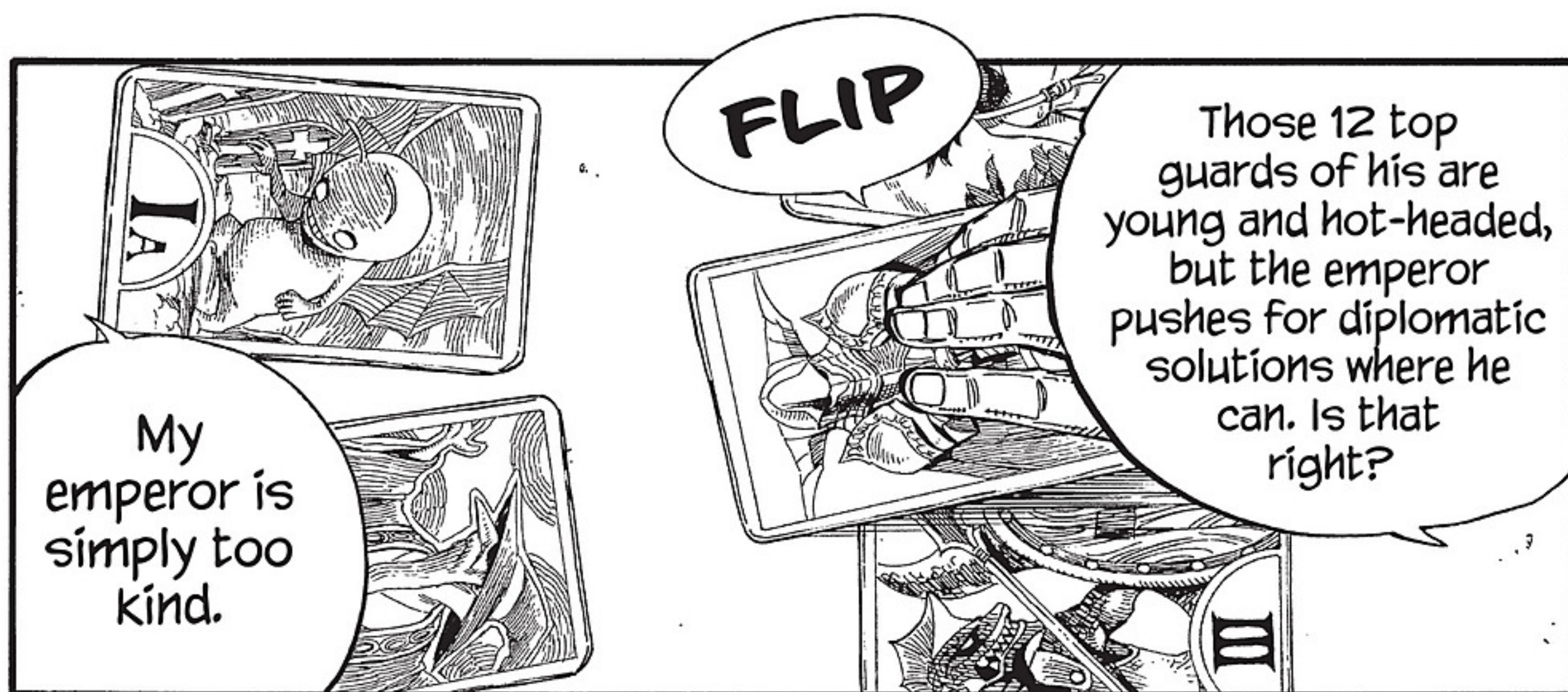
To
tell the
truth...

...I'm
shocked.

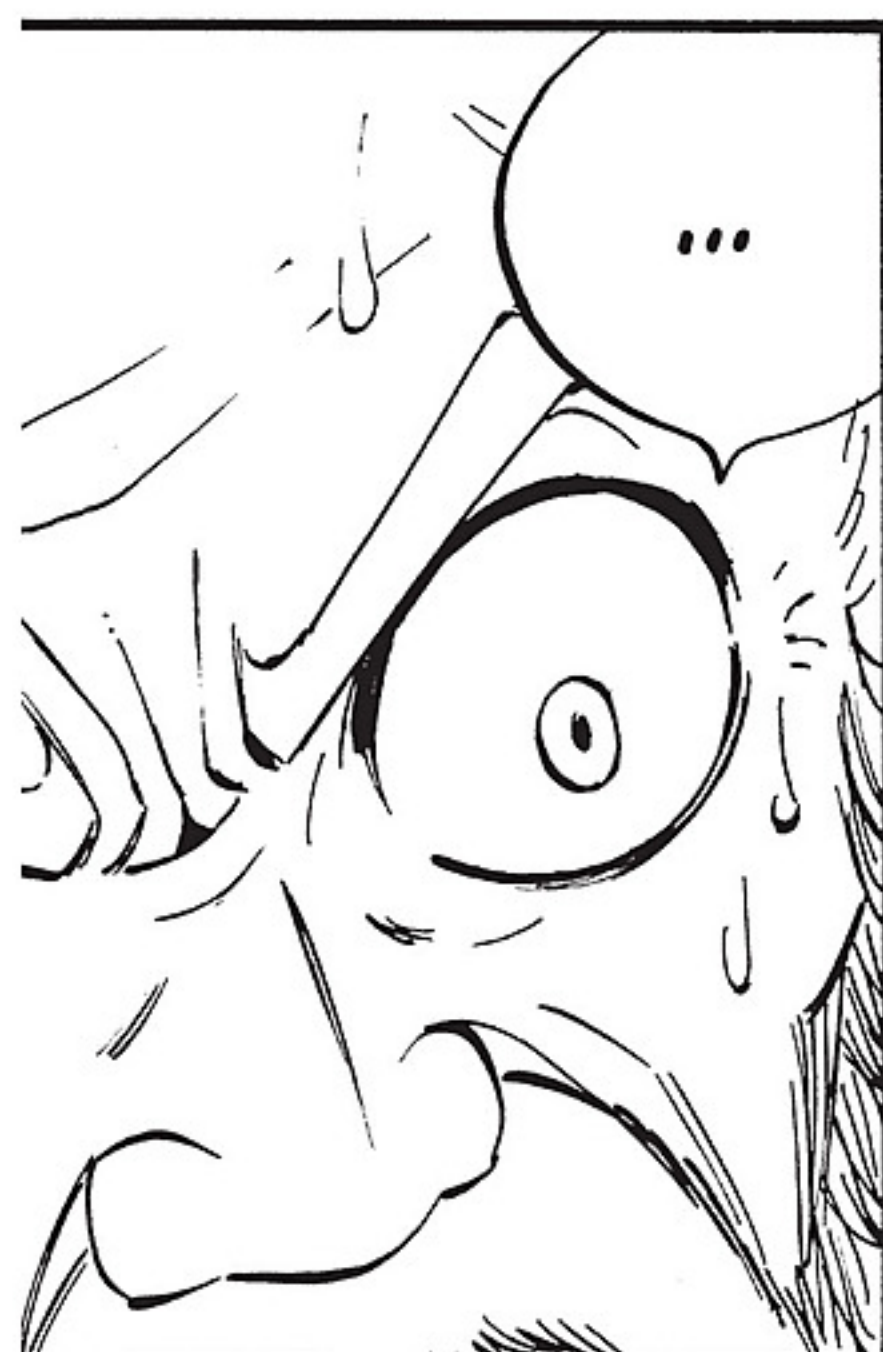
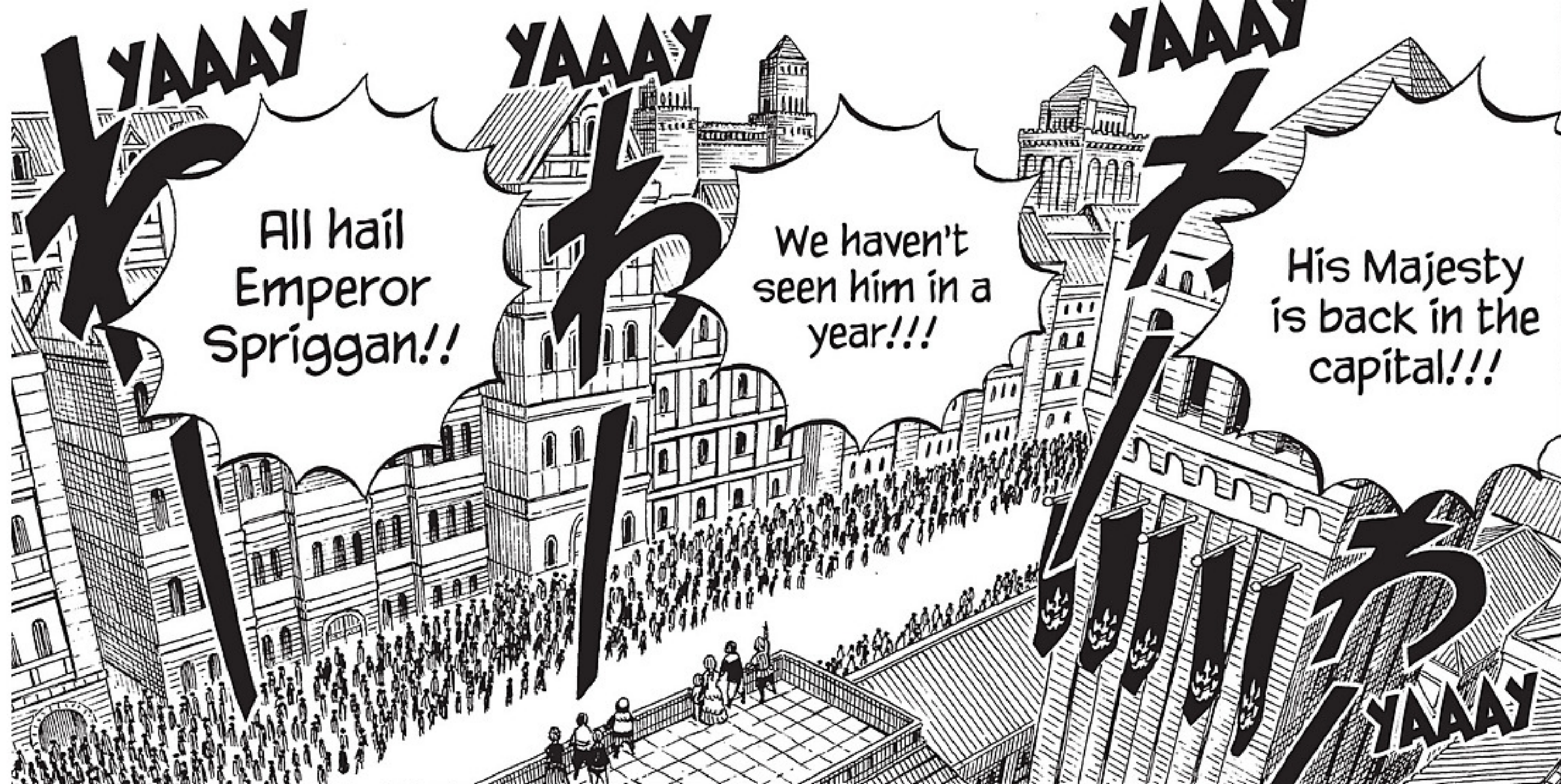
Vistarion,
the capi-
tal of the
Albareth
Empire...



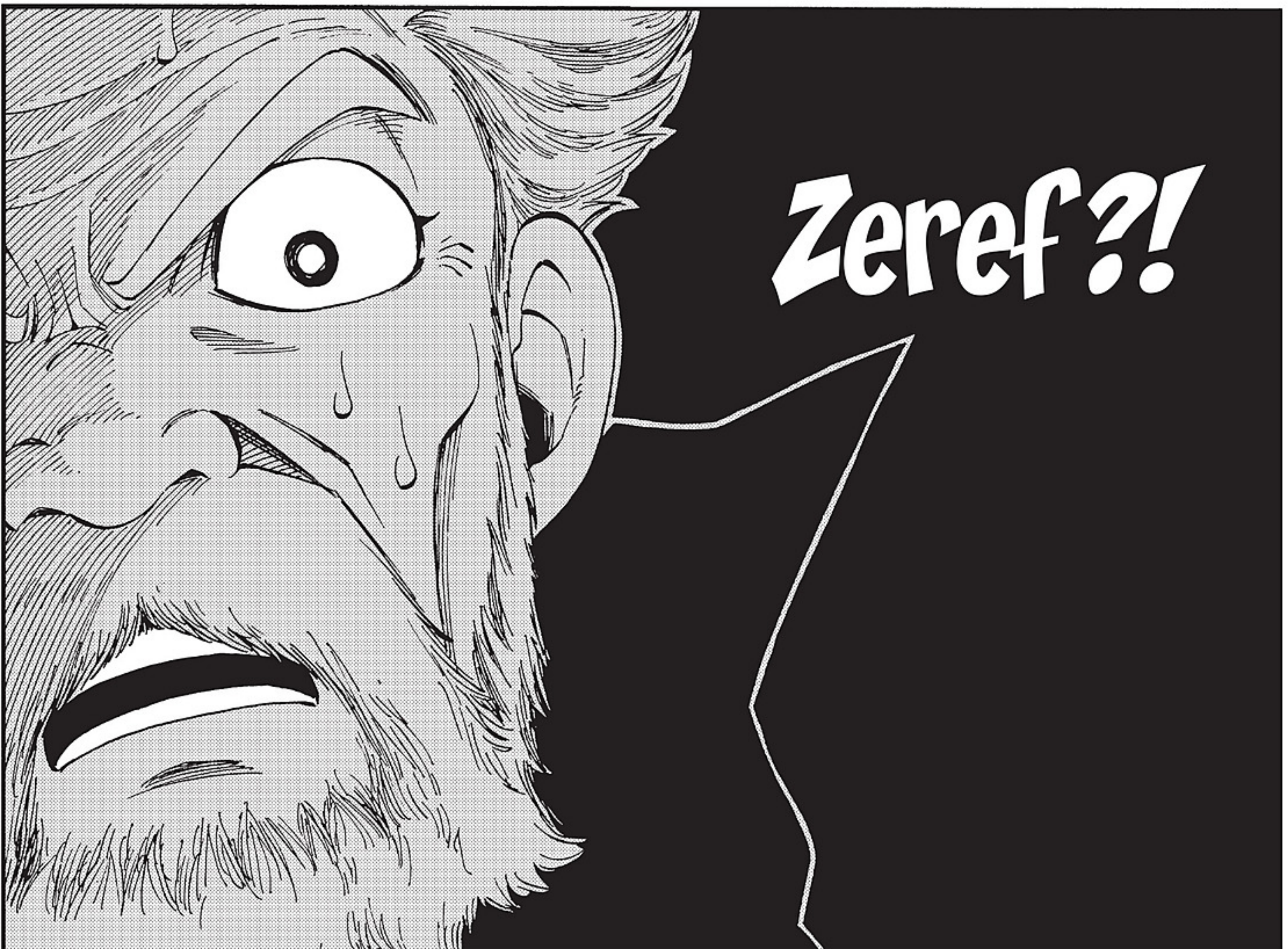
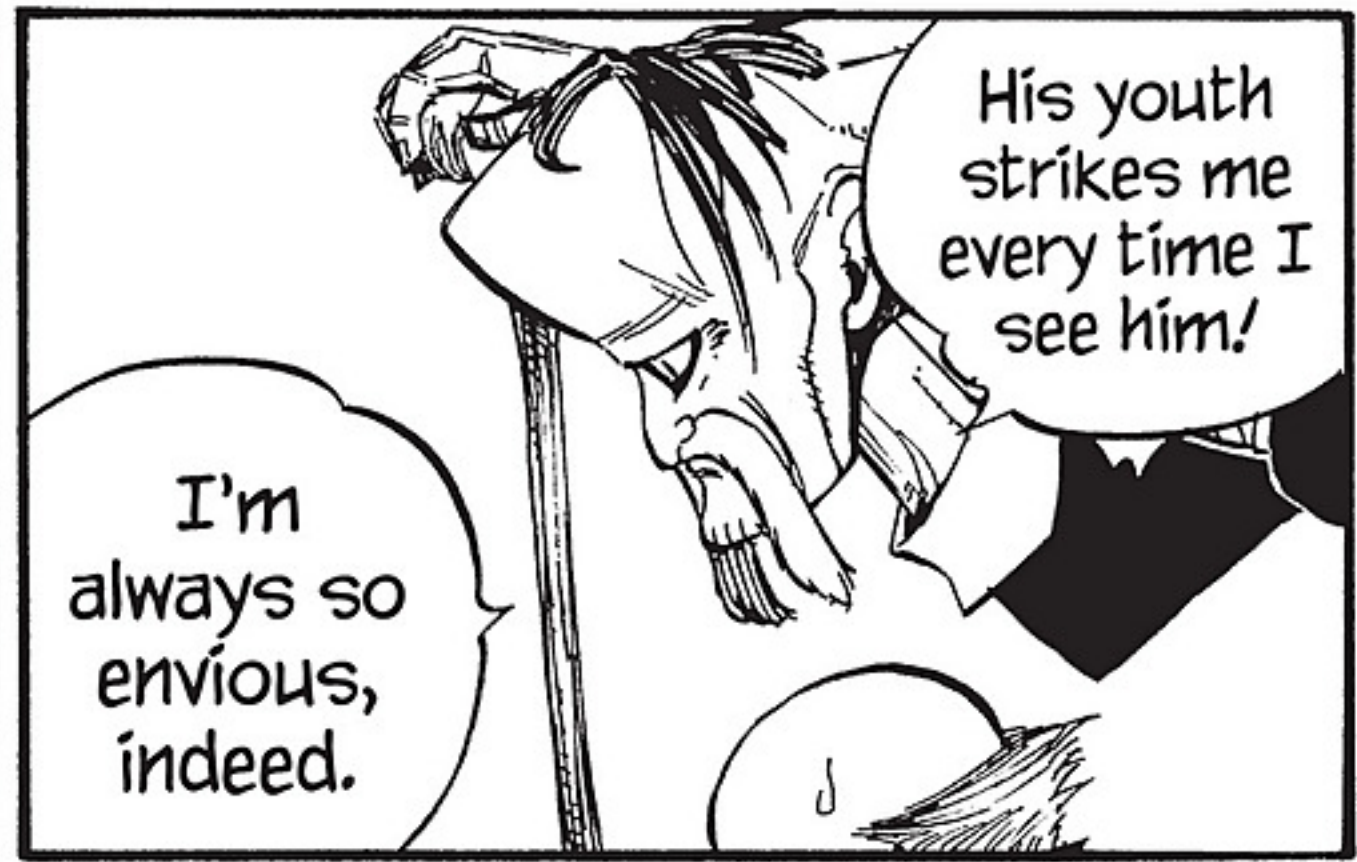
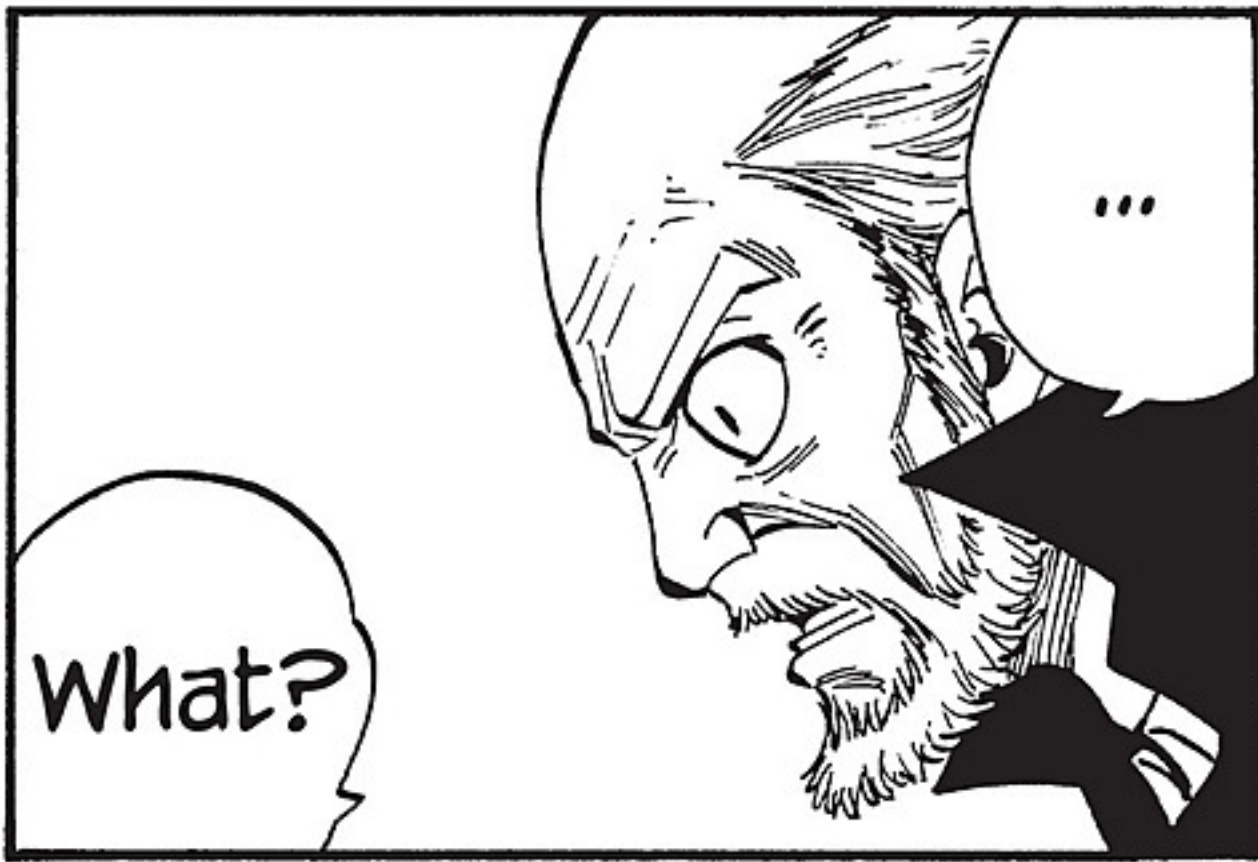




Legenka: An Albareth card game.



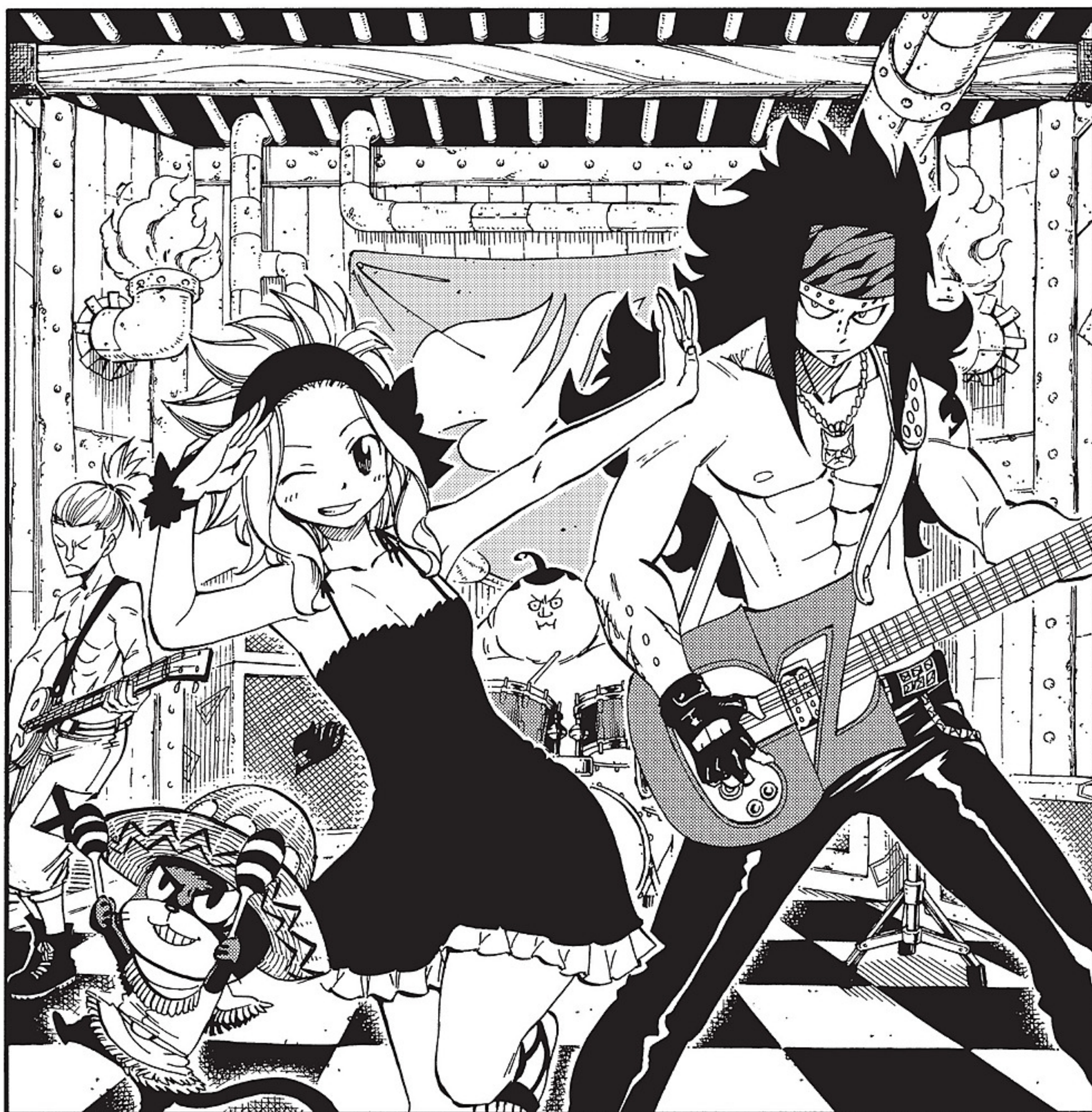


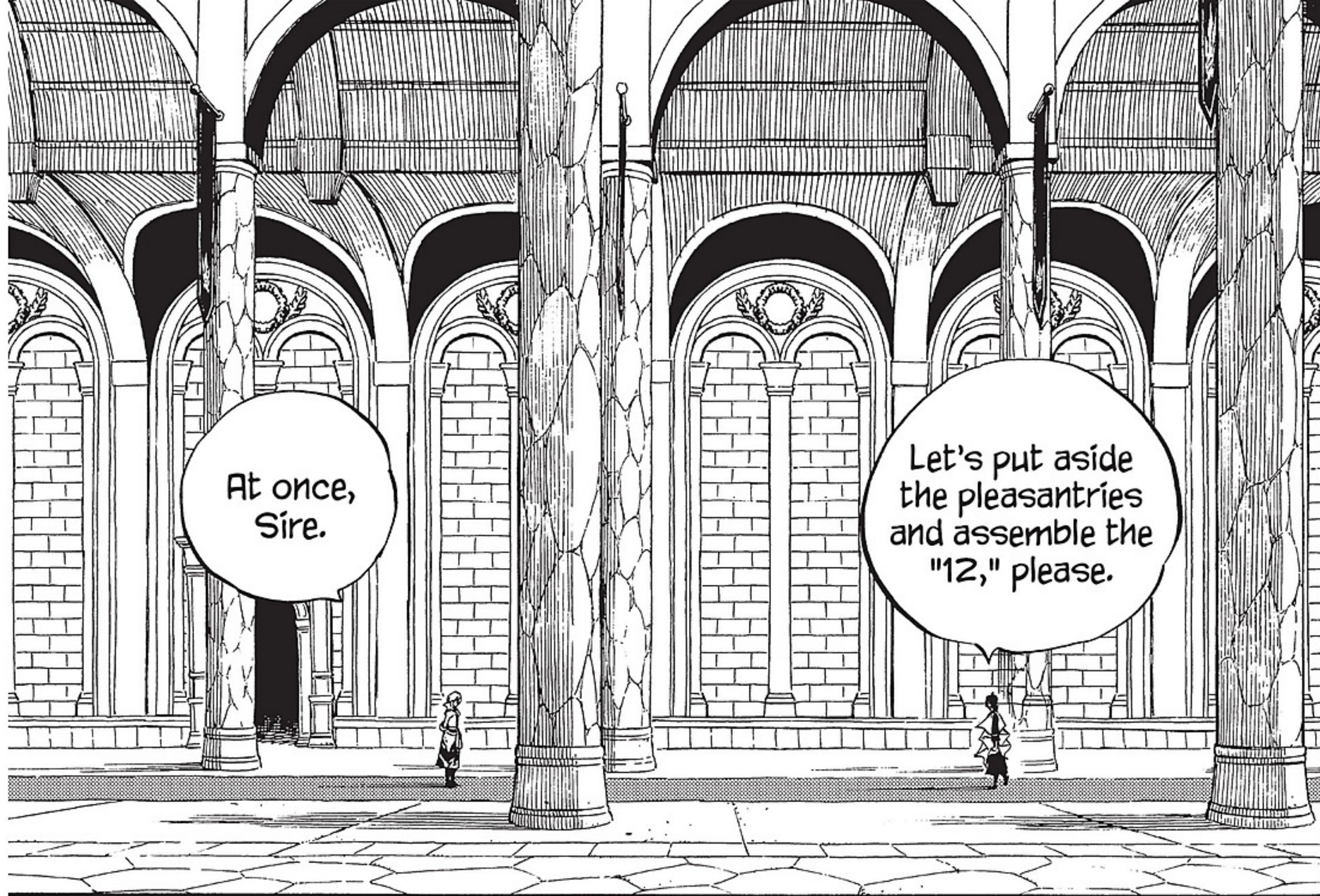


FAIRY TAIL

フェアリーテイル

Chapter 445: The Grotesque Fairy





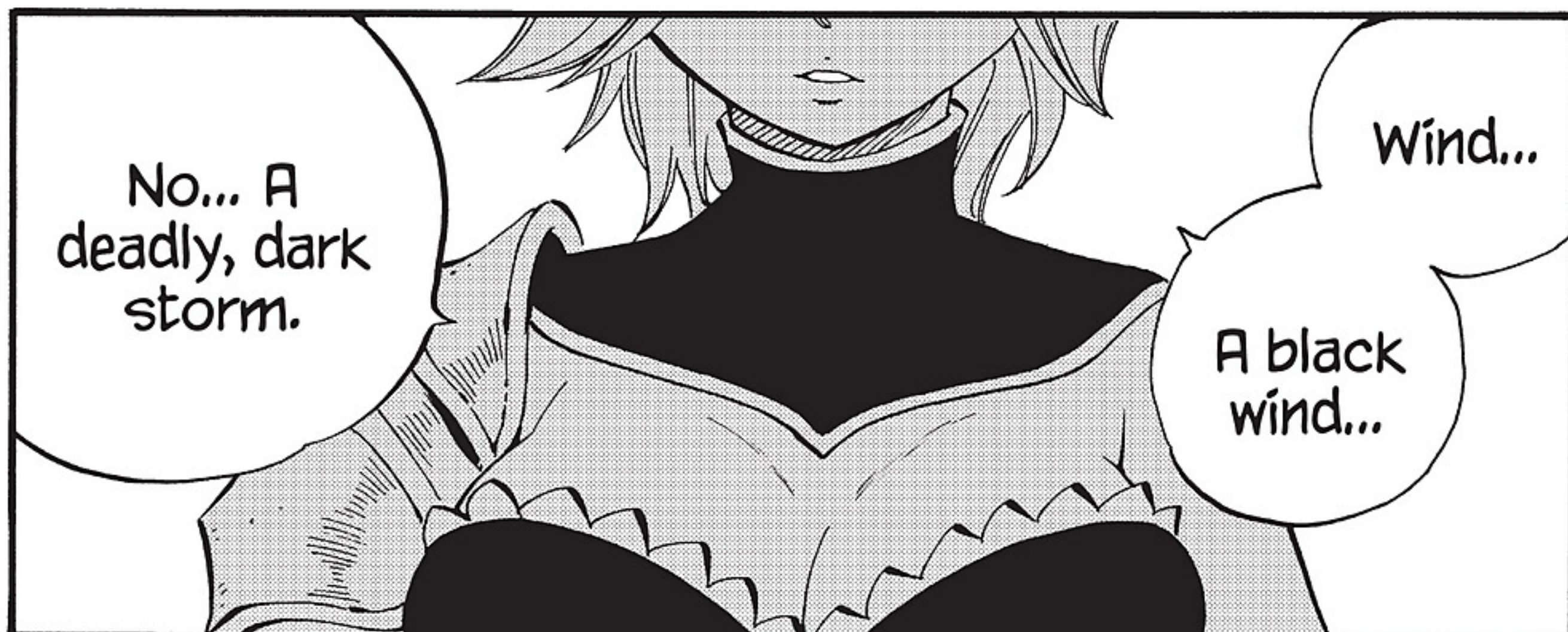
At once,
Sire.

Let's put aside
the pleasantries
and assemble the
"12," please.



Oh,
dear. I'm
just some
capricious
puff of wind
now?

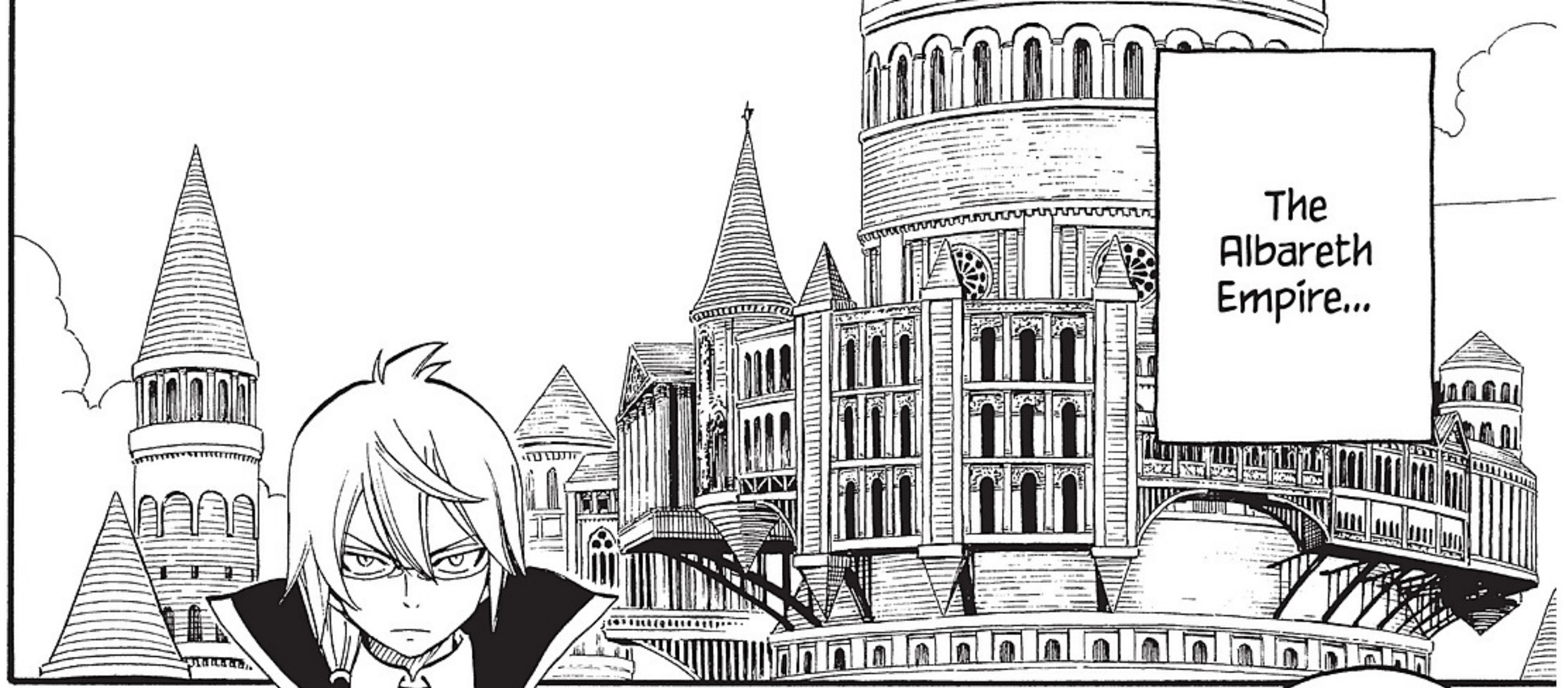
If I could have
foreseen when this
unpredictable
spring breeze would
have first blown
through, I would
have assembled
them in advance.



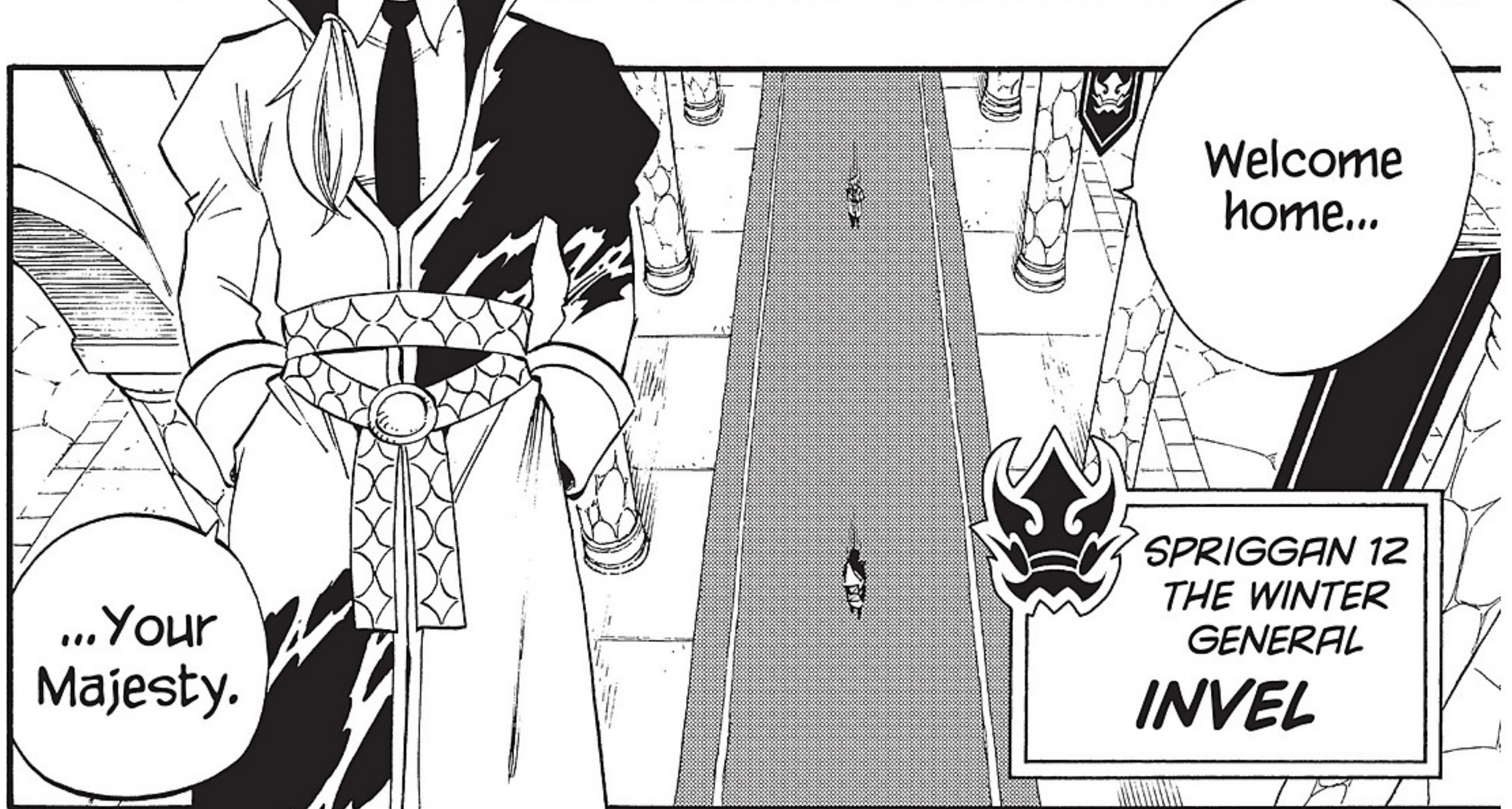
No... A
deadly, dark
storm.

Wind...

A black
wind...



The
Albareth
Empire...



...Your
Majesty.



SPRIGGAN 12
THE WINTER
GENERAL
INVEL

Welcome
home...



Good
to be
back...

...Invel.

Desert
!!!!

Your Majesty
is no spring
breeze.

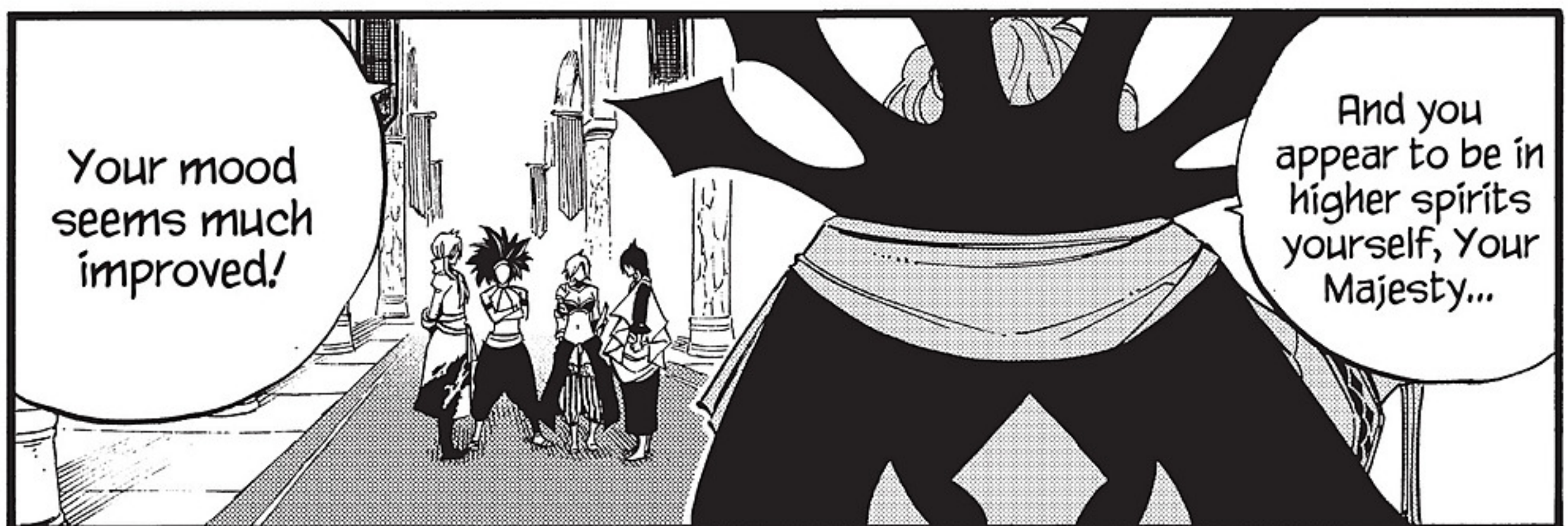
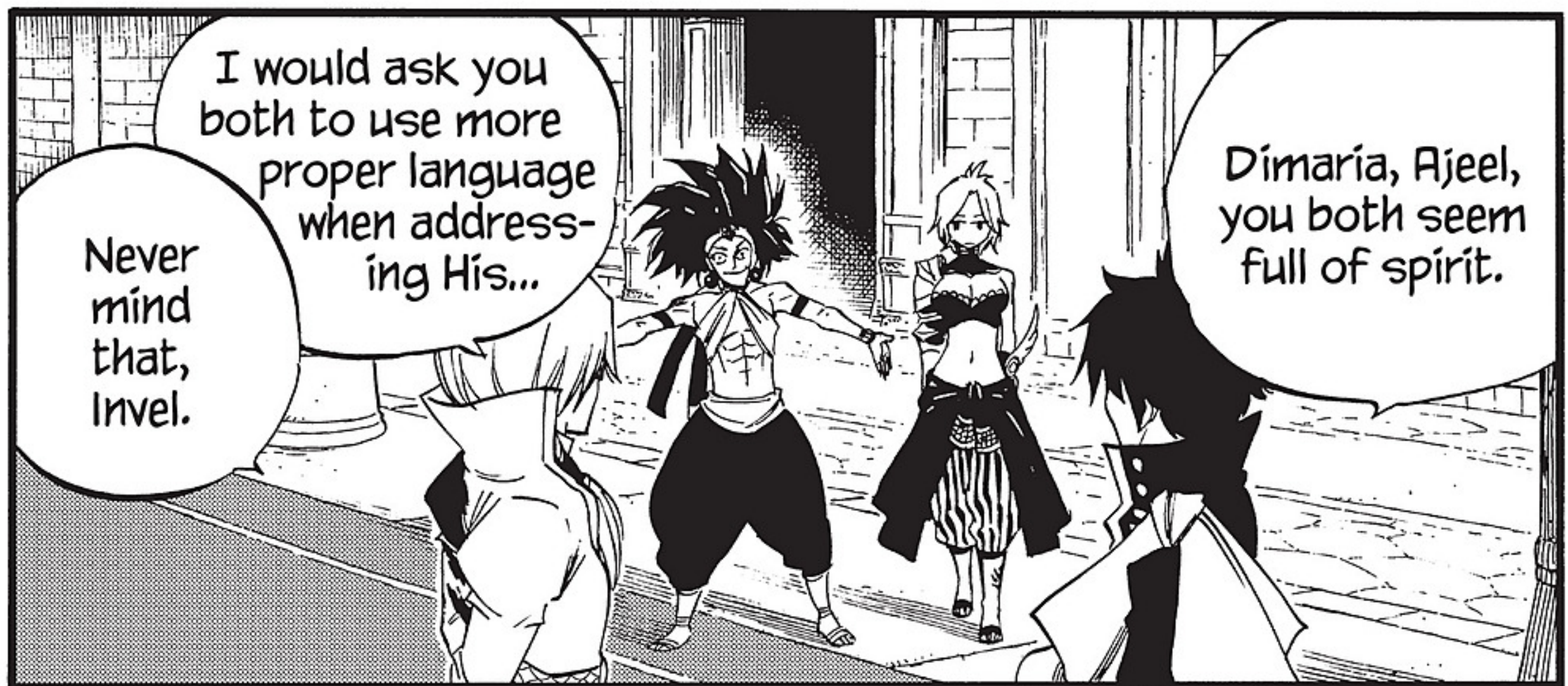
That's right!
Yer like some
sandstorm
that whips its
way across the
dead land!!!

SPRIGGAN 12
DESERT KING

AJEEL RAML

SPRIGGAN 12
WARRIOR QUEEN

**DIMARIA
YESTA**





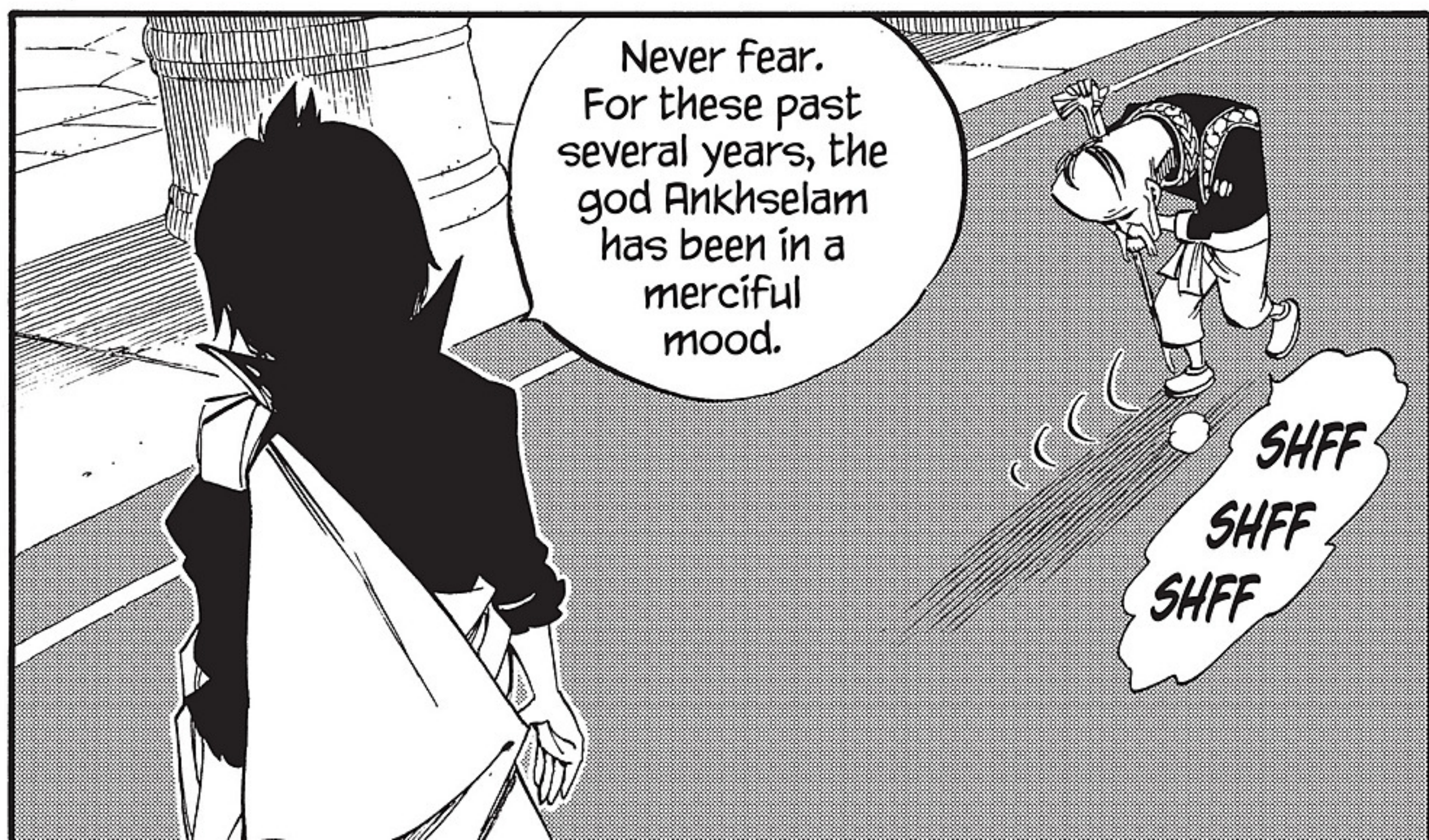
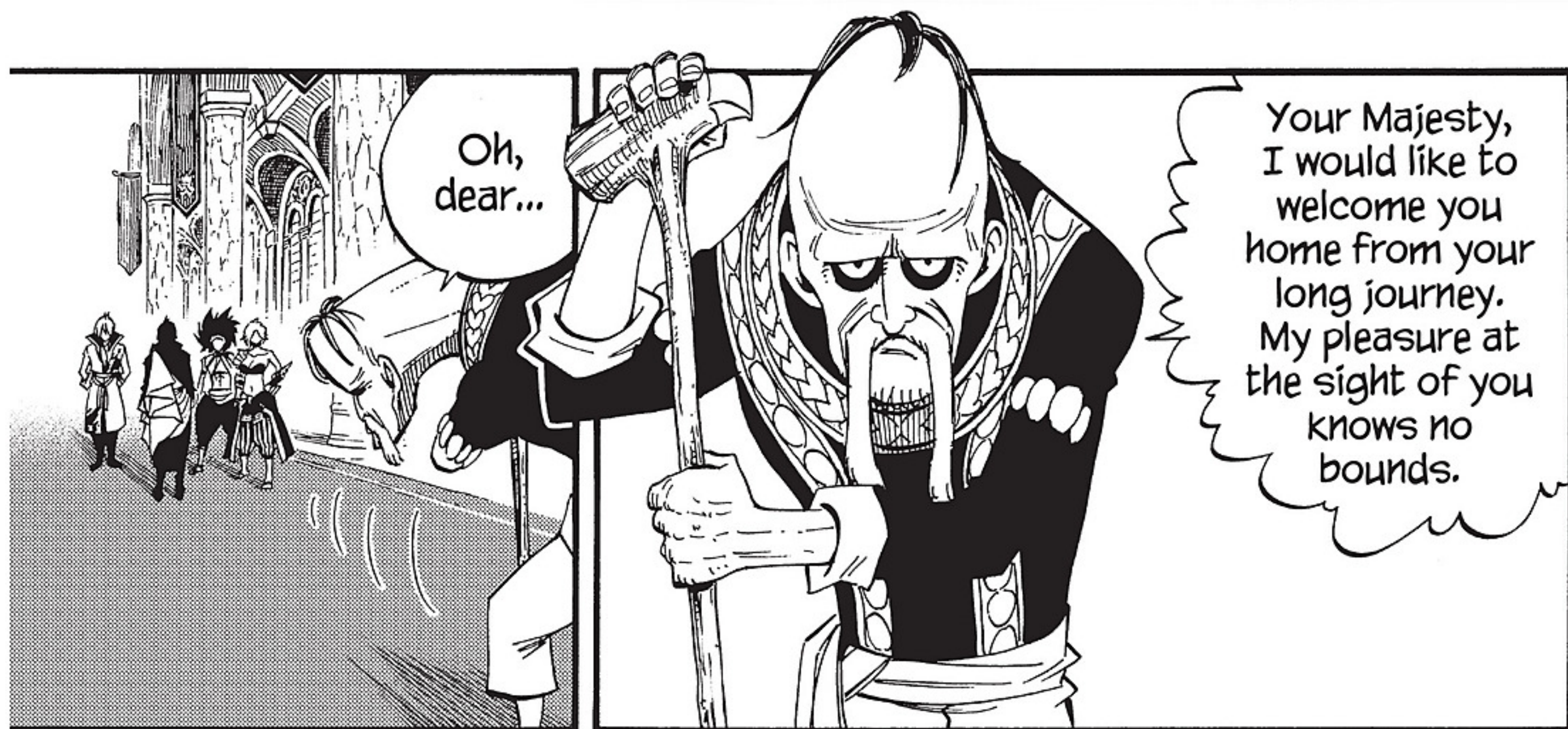
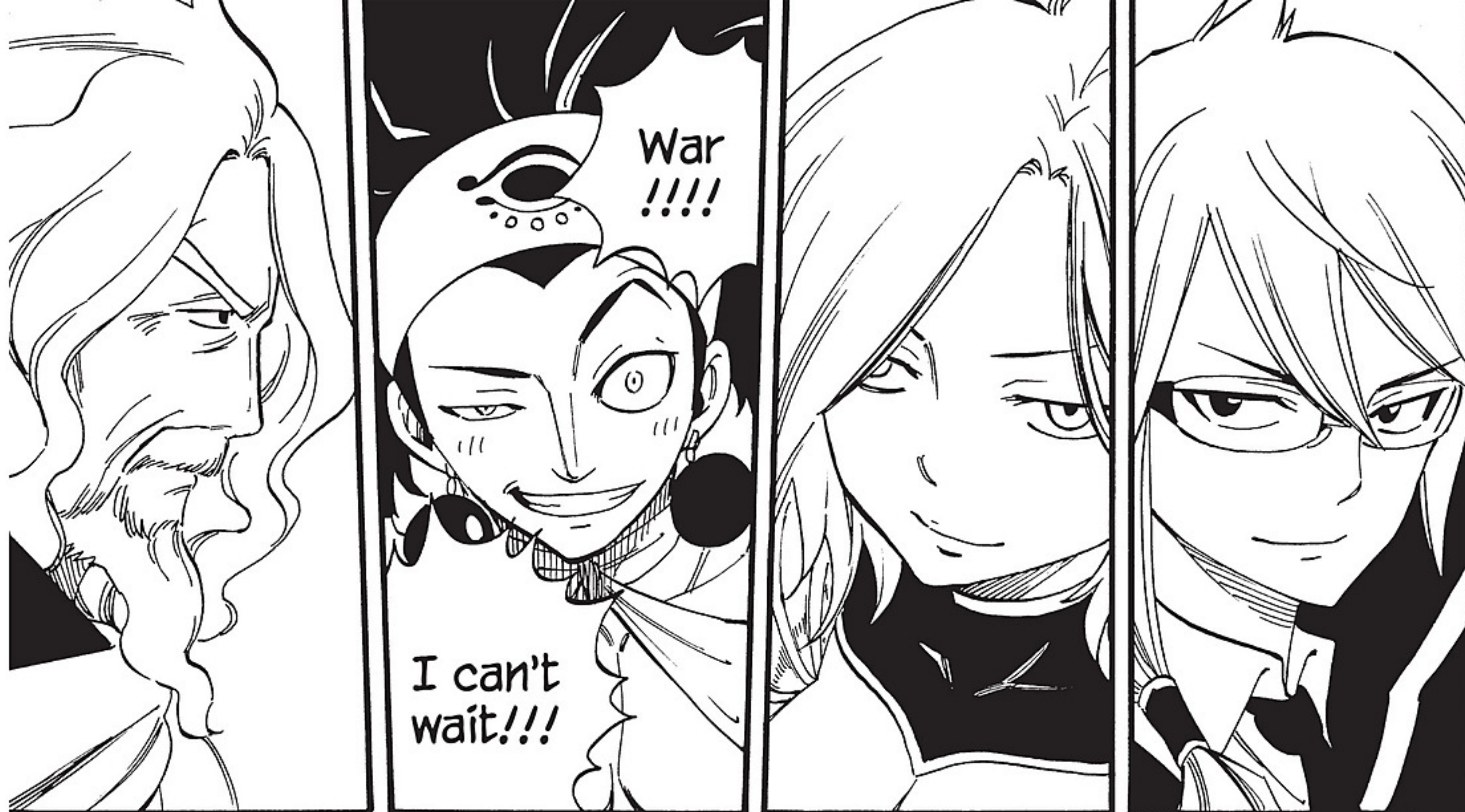
...
**regarding
Ragnarök?**

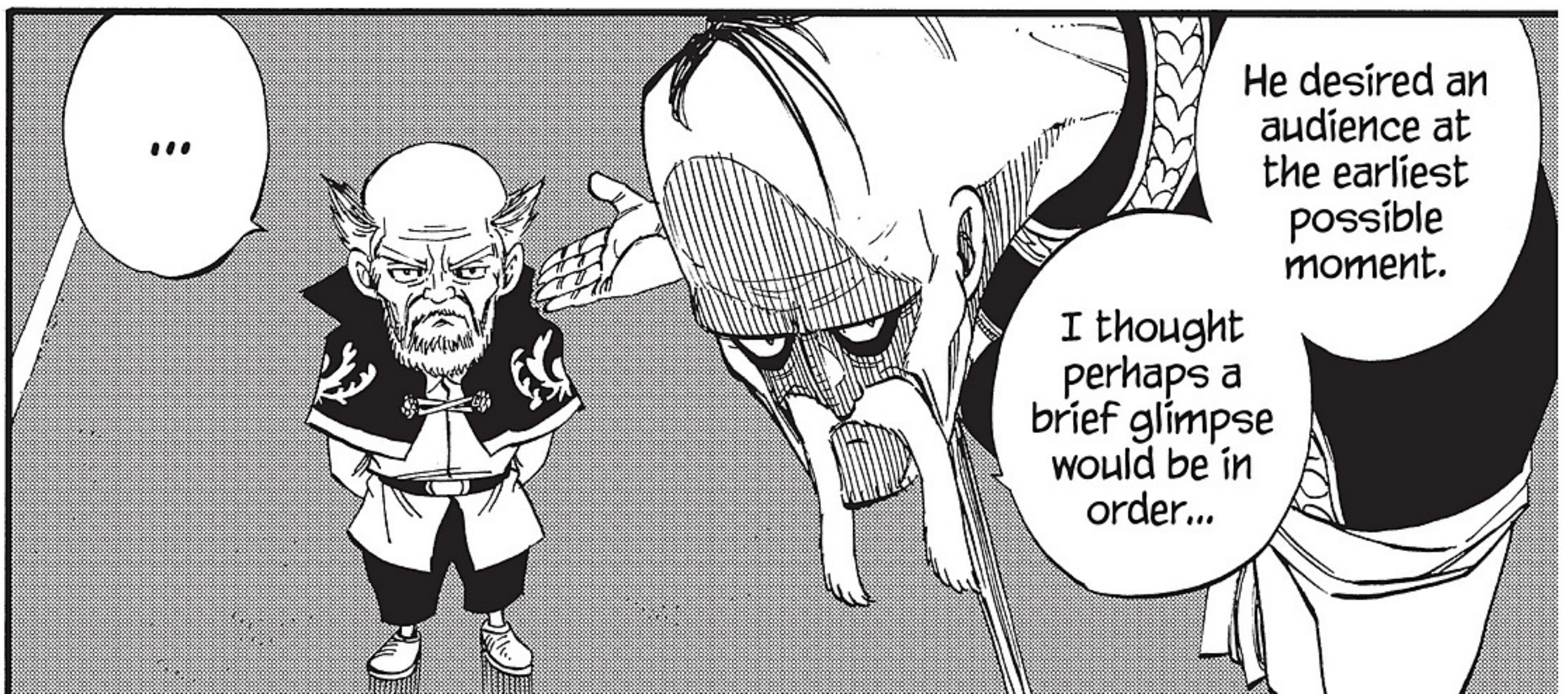
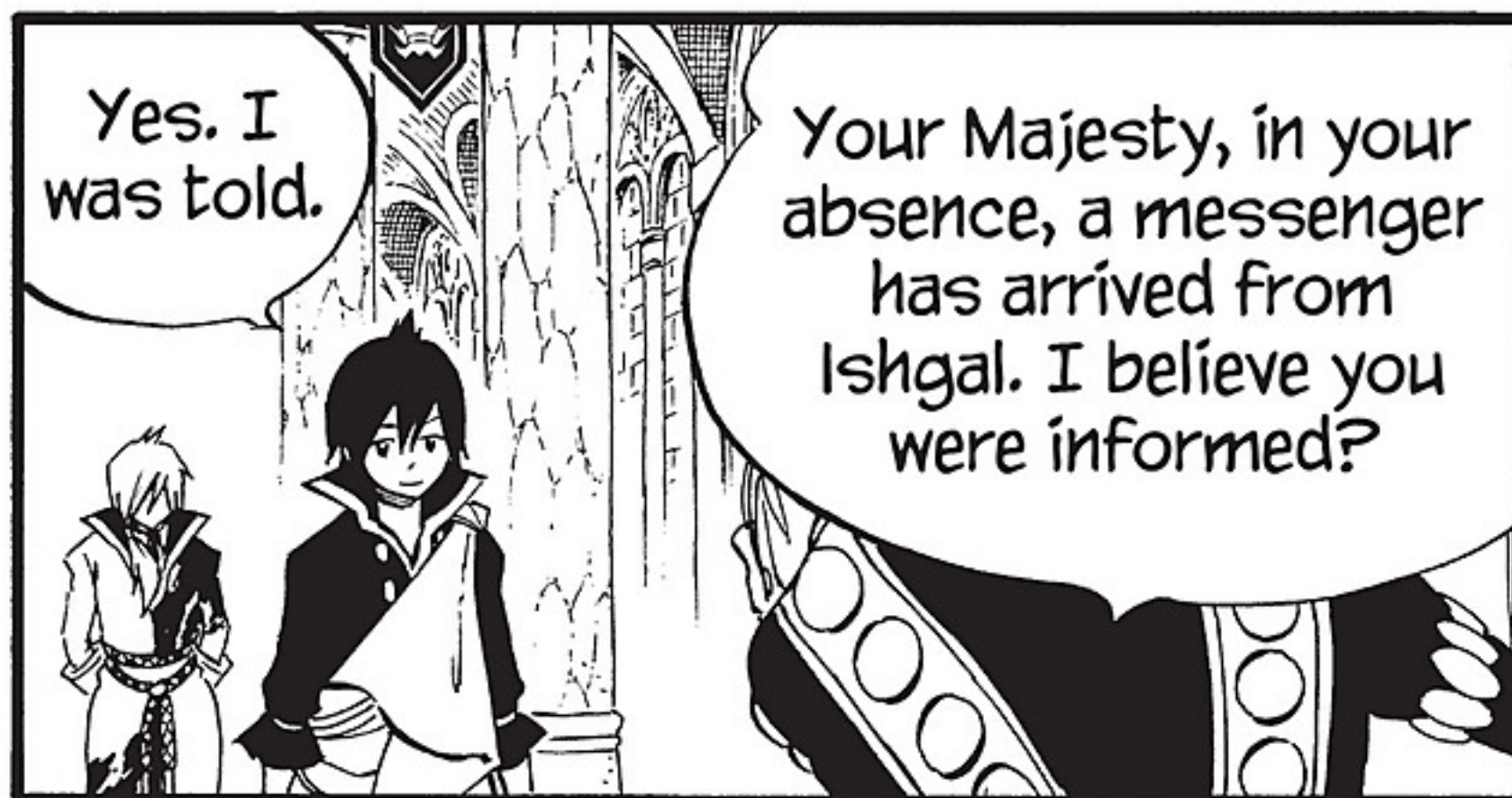
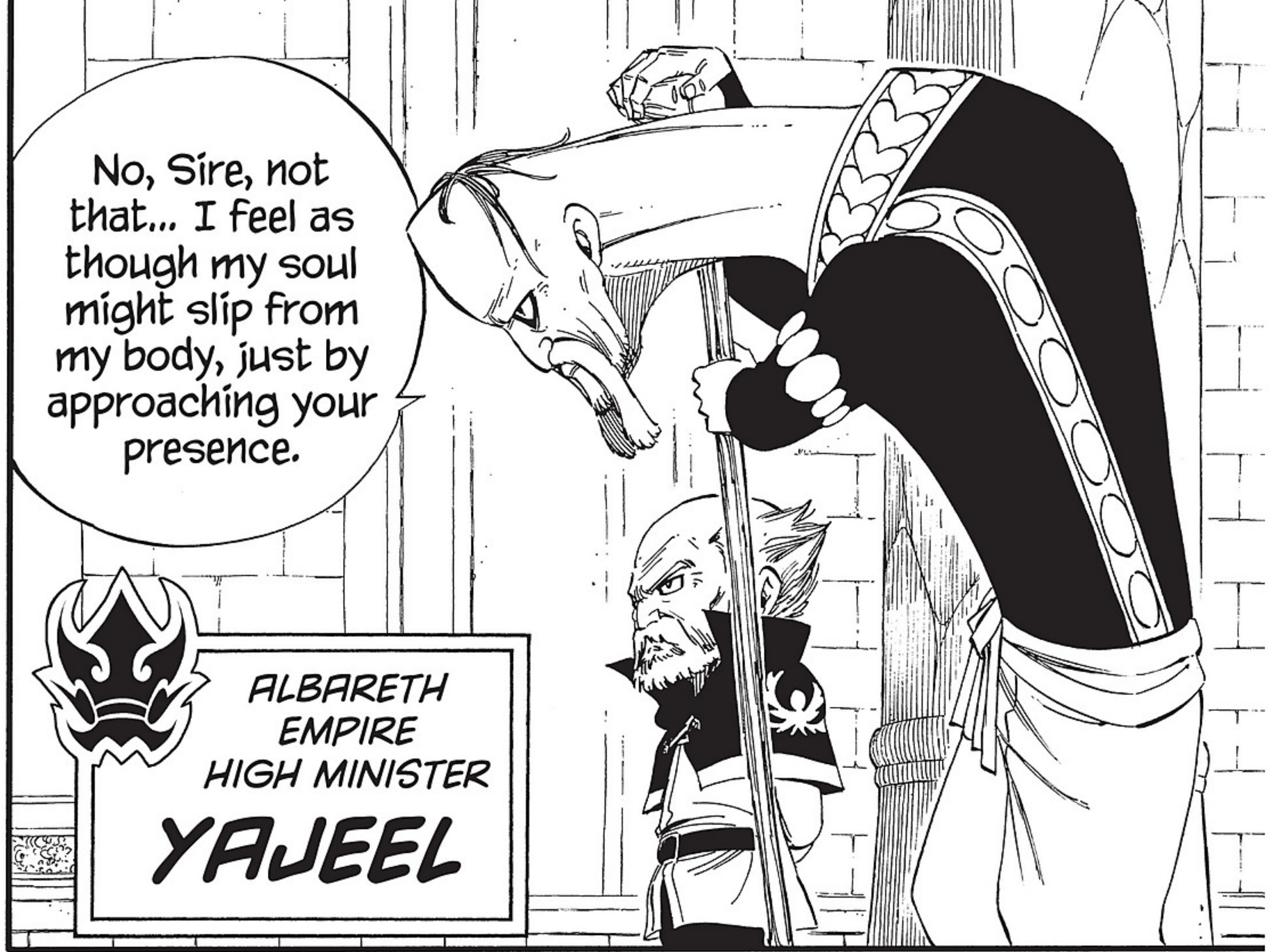


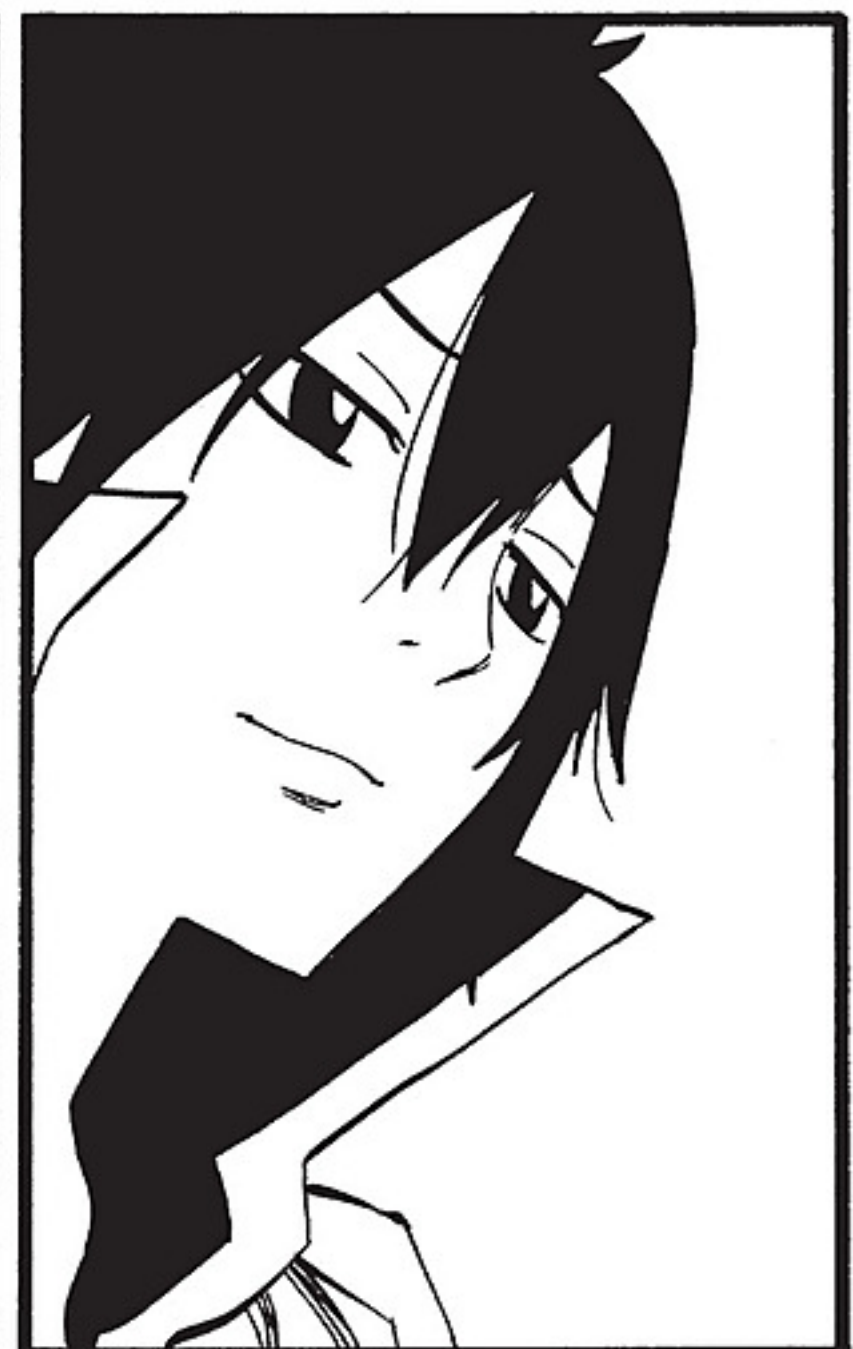
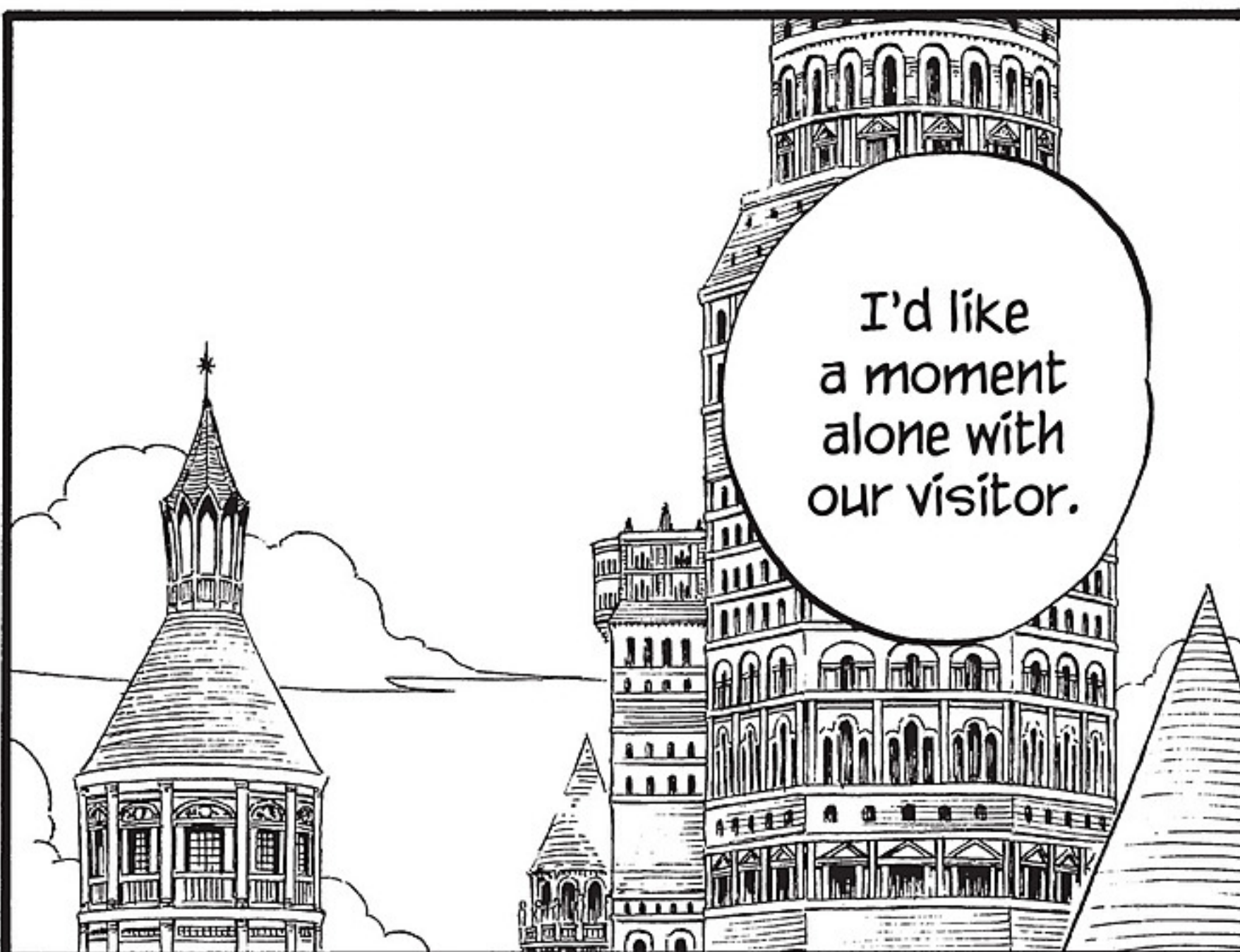
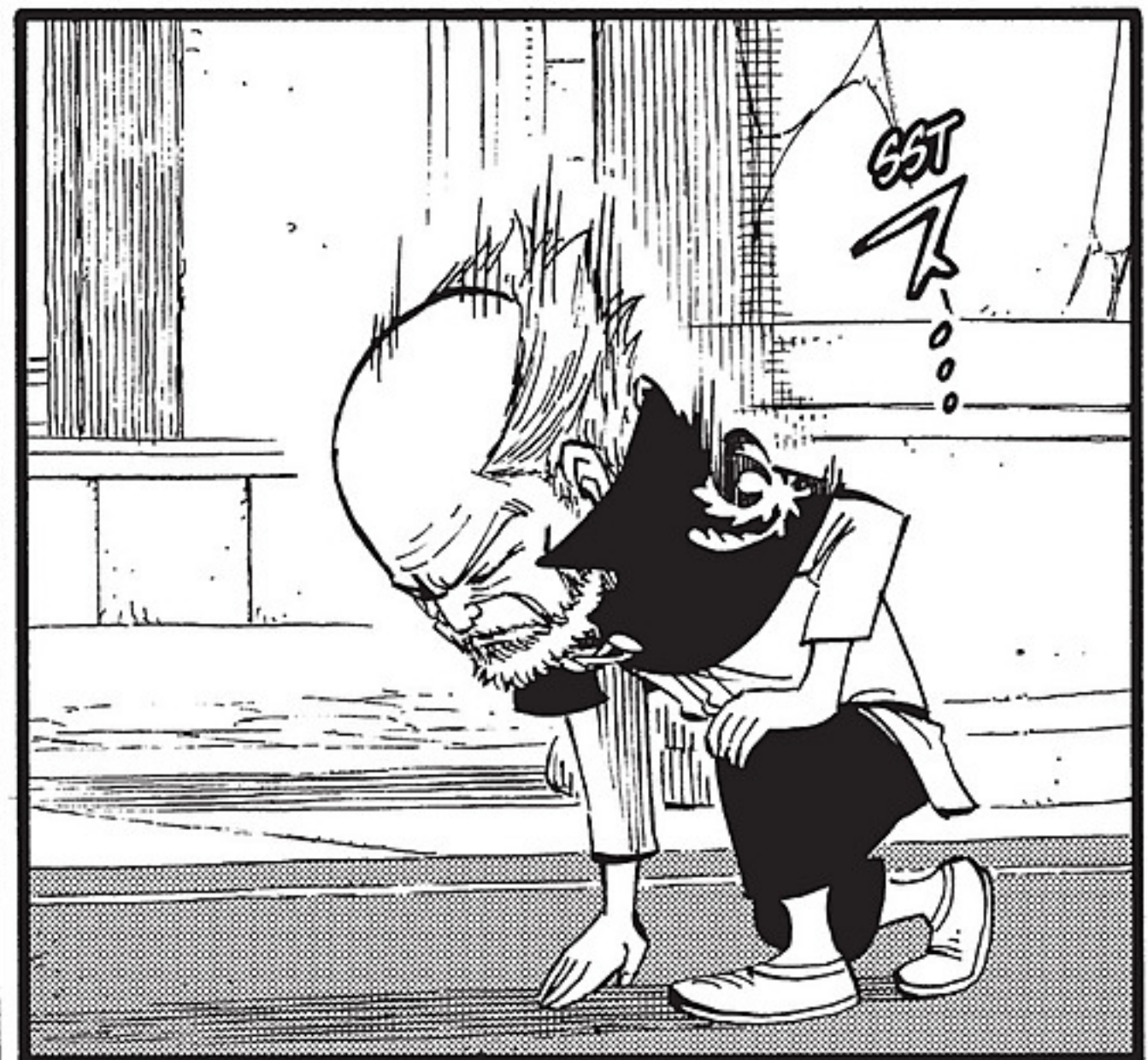
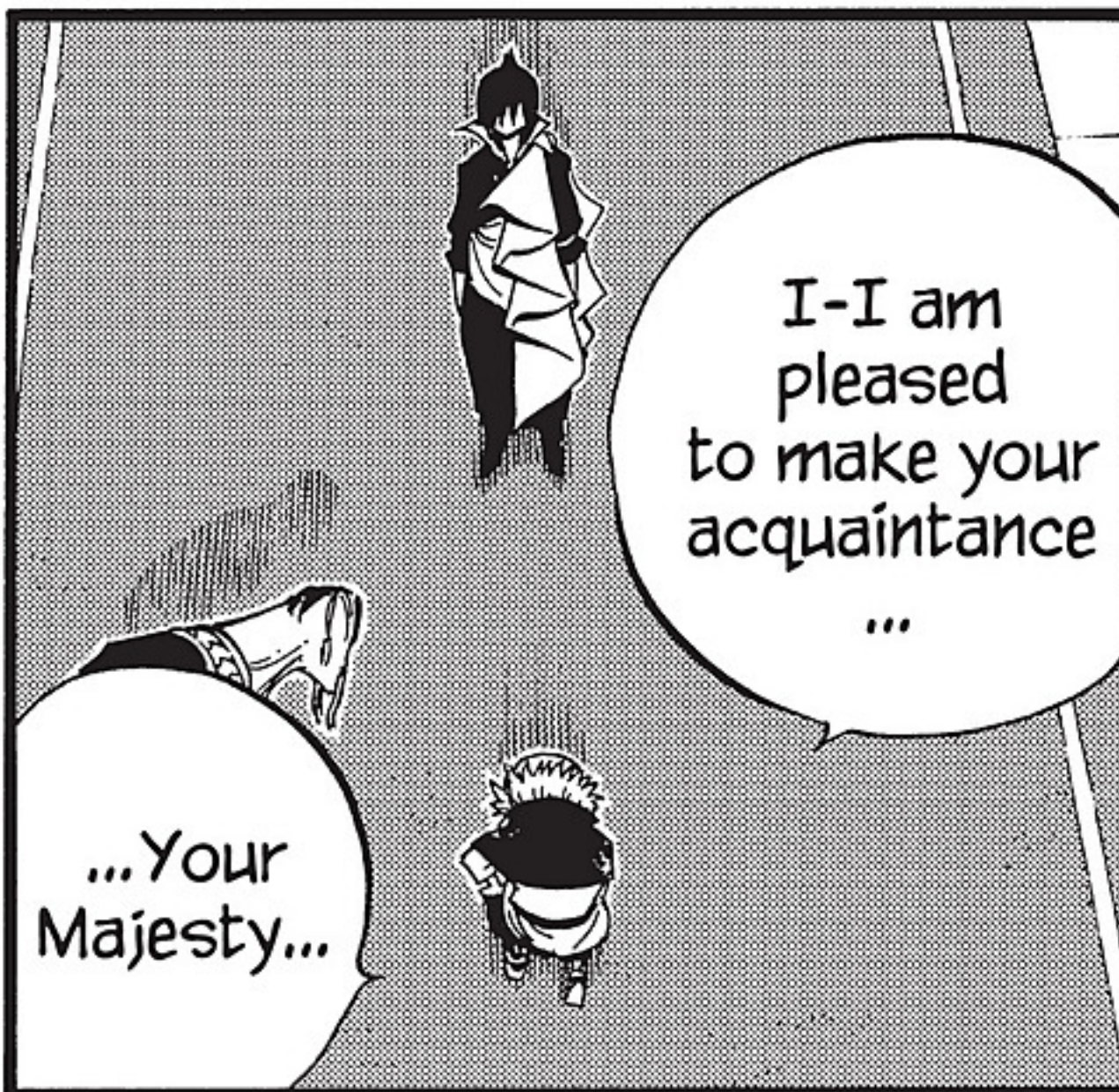
**SPRIGGAN 12
WIZARD KING**

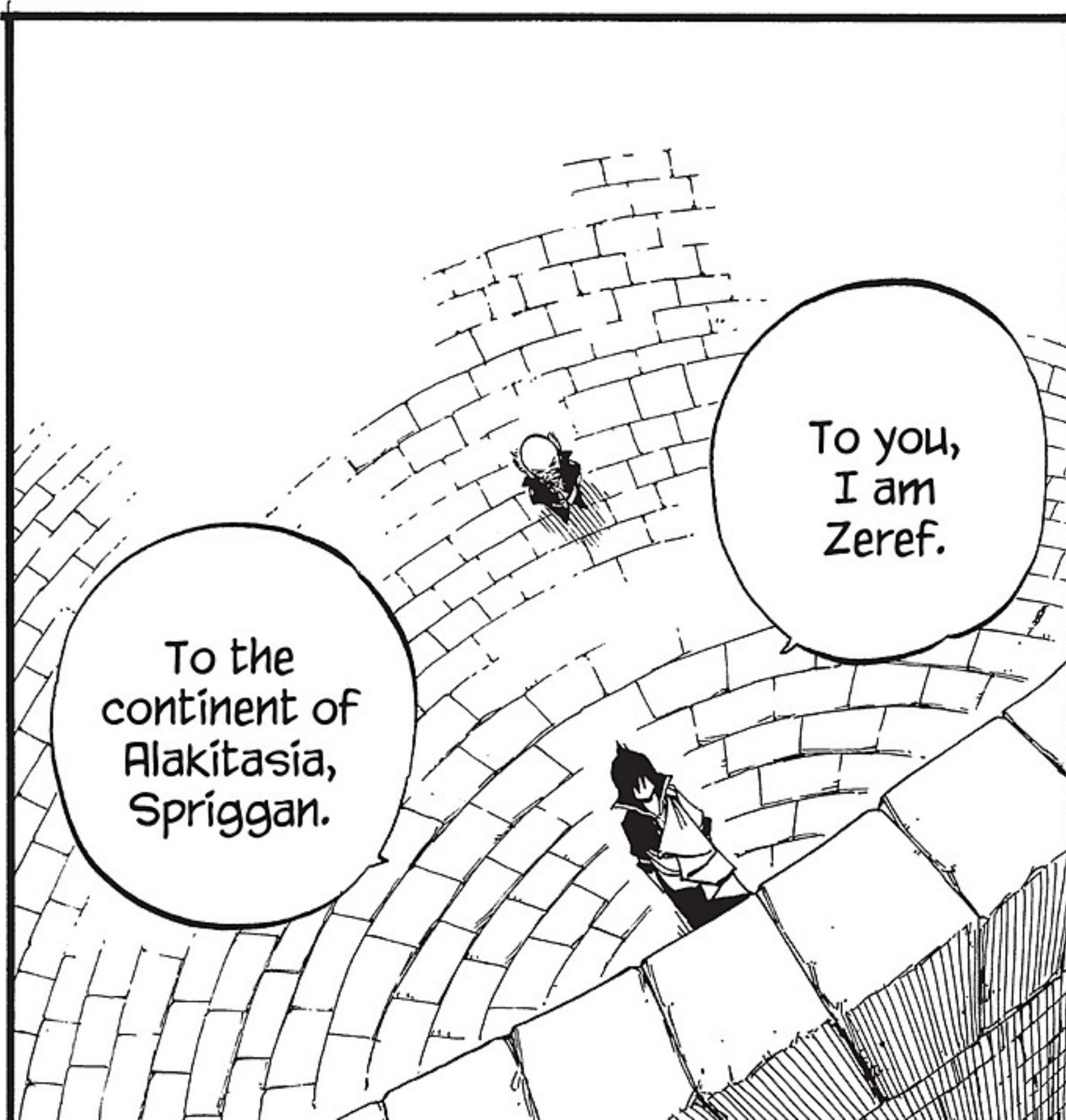
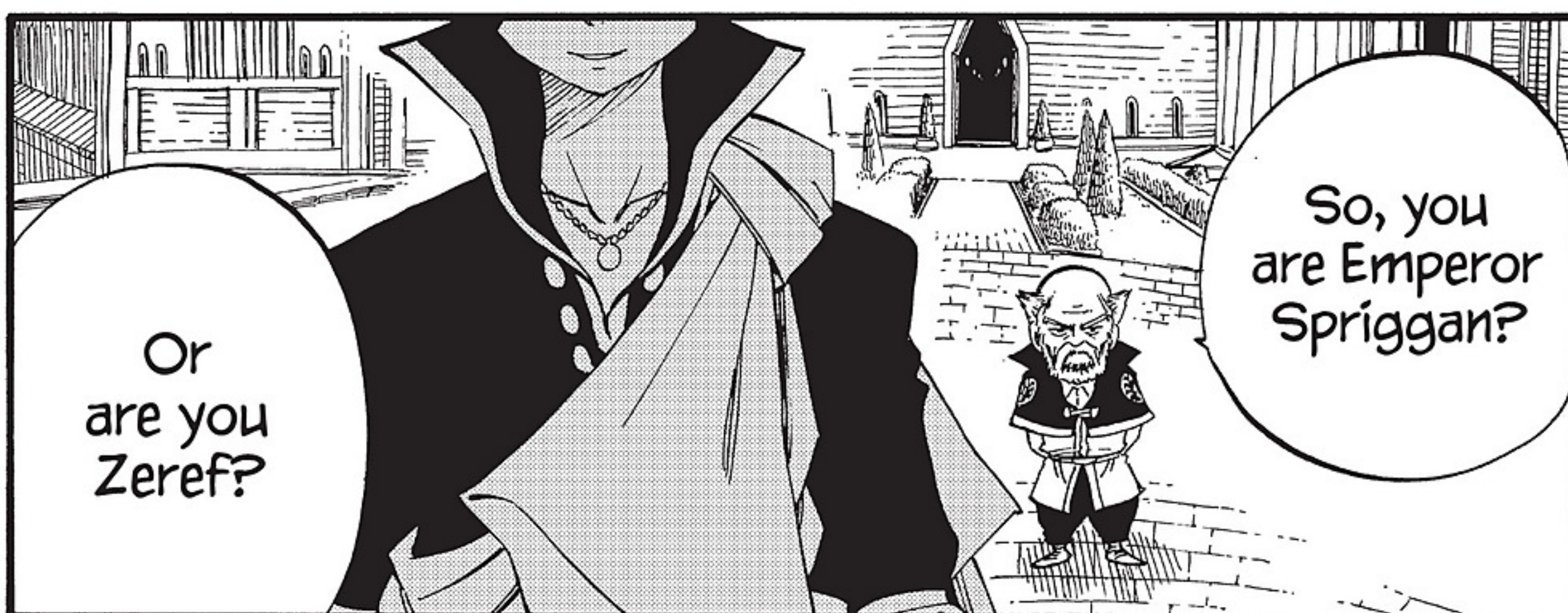
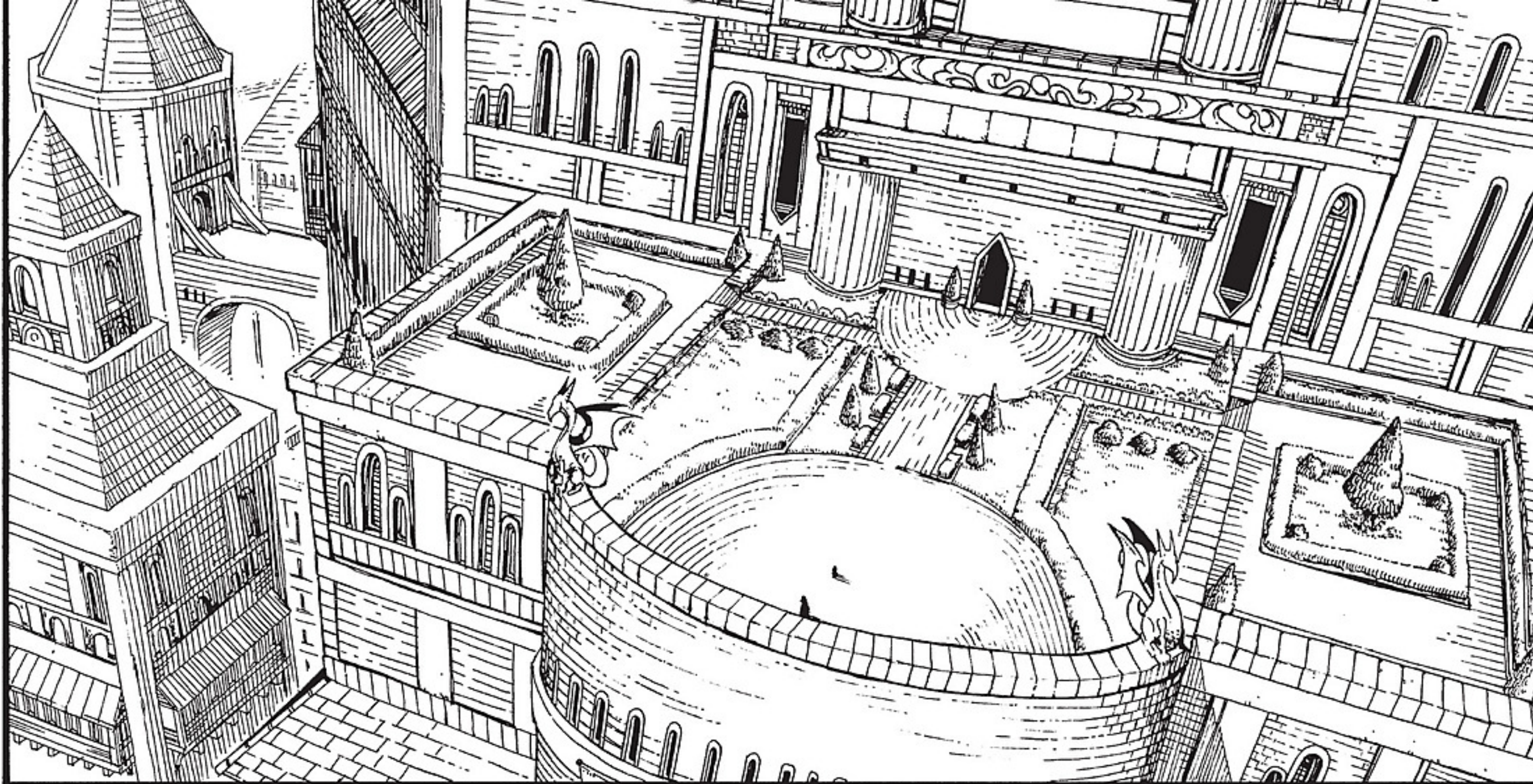
AUGUST

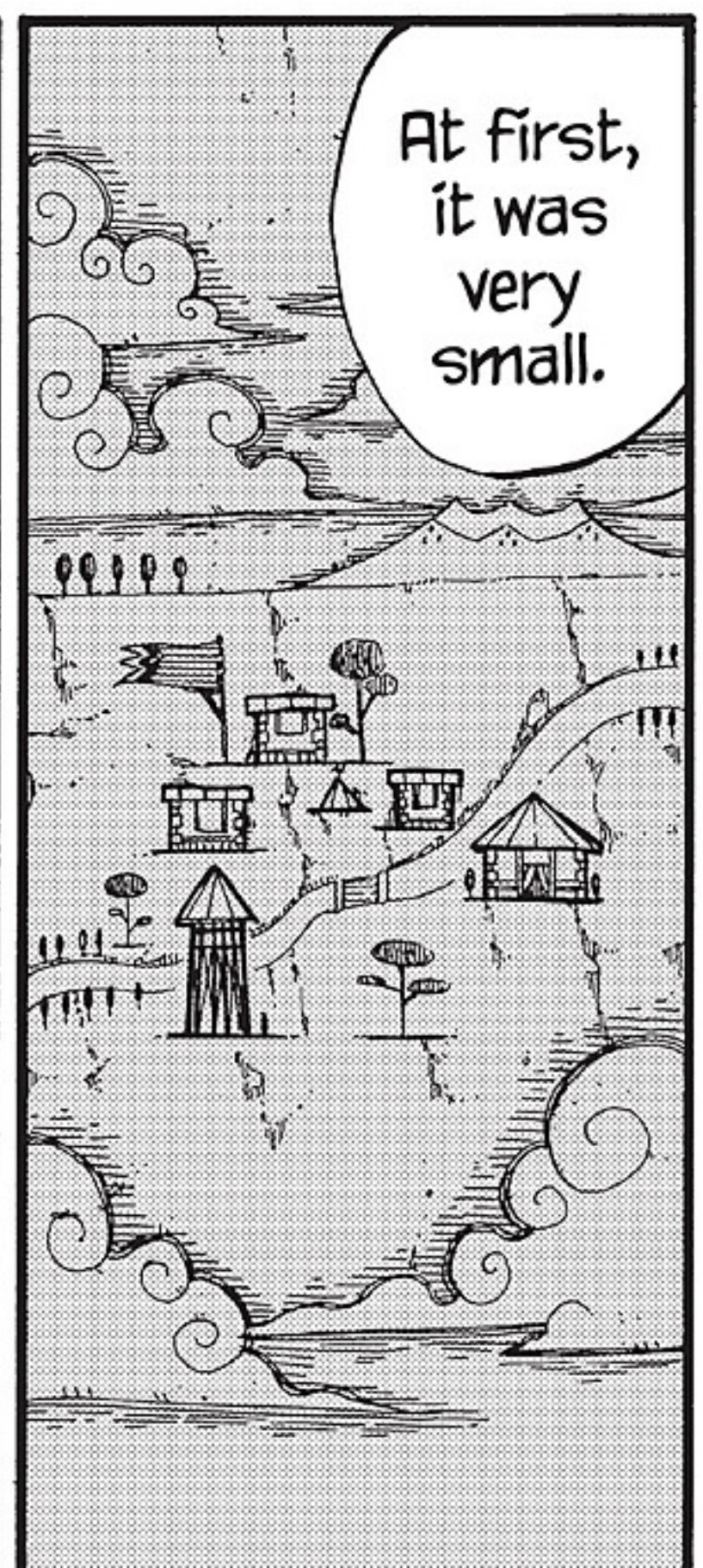
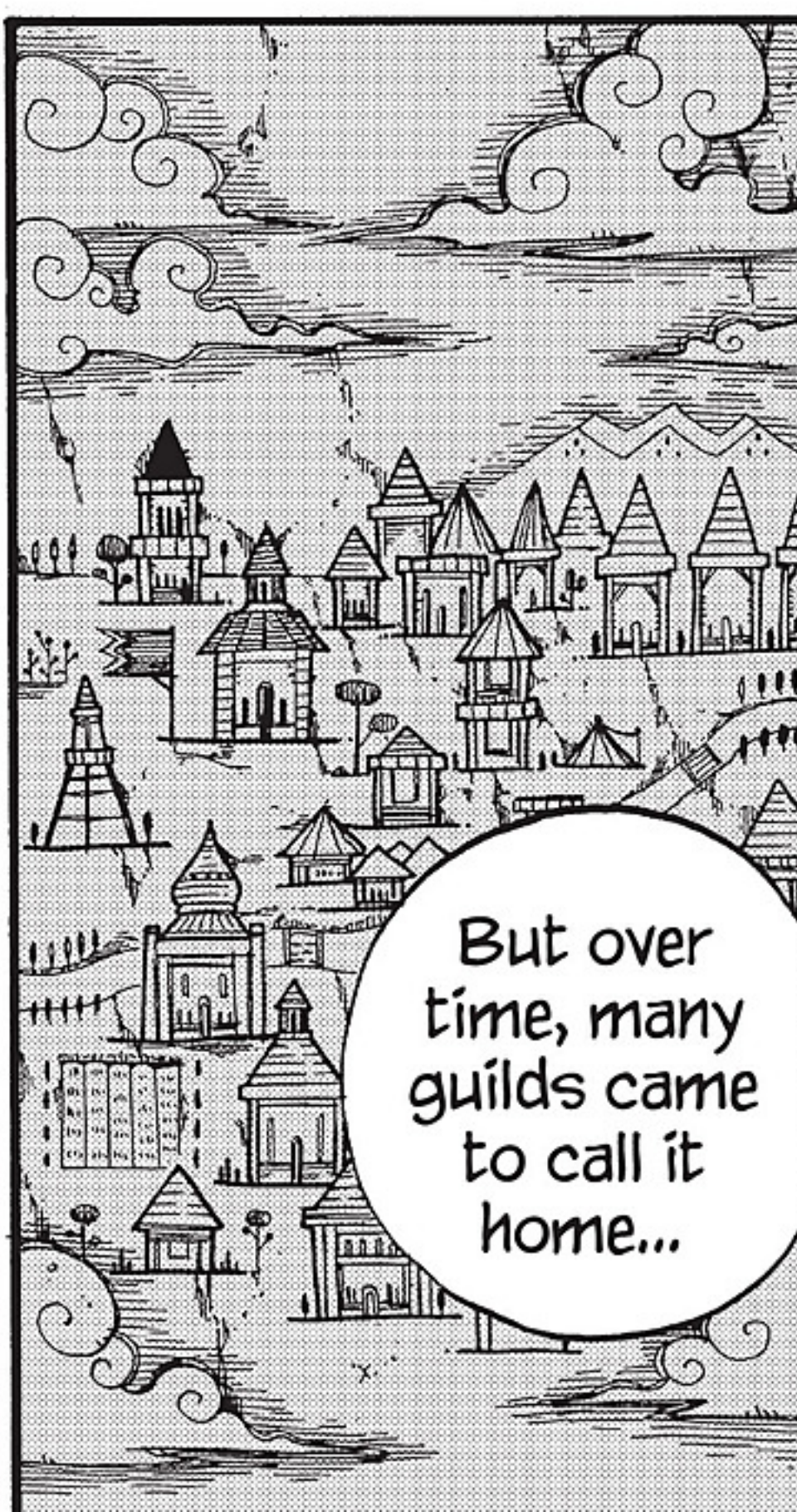
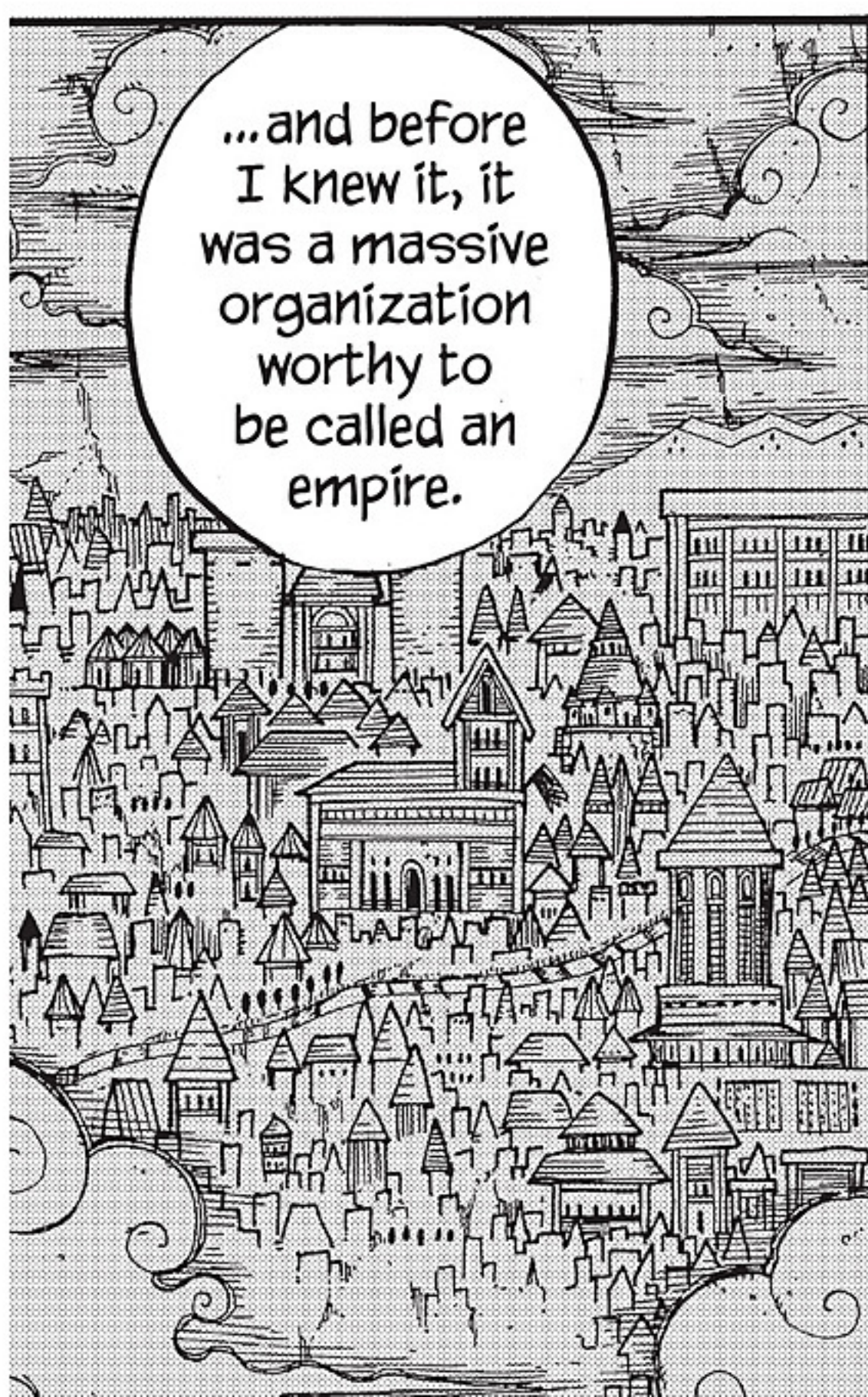
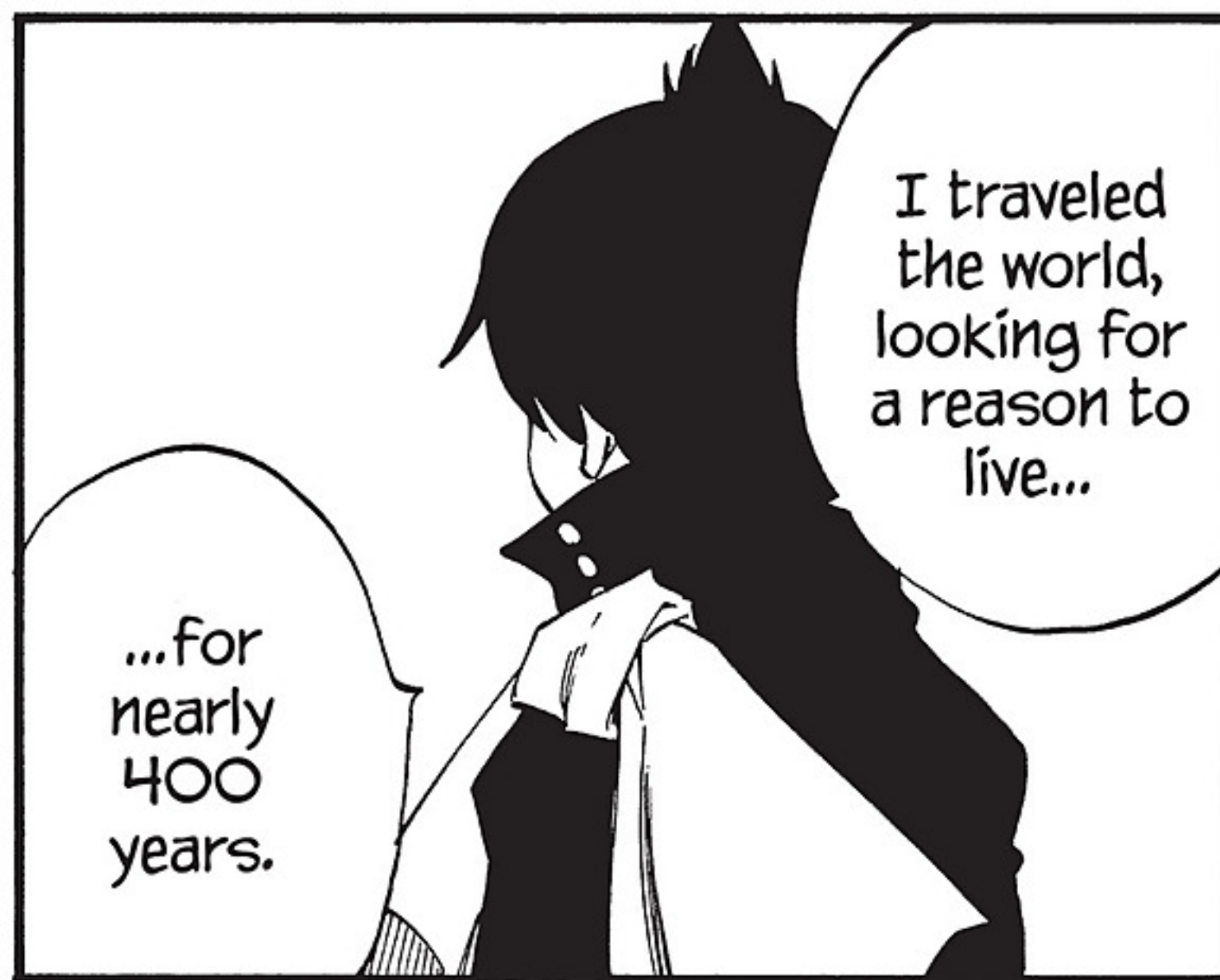
They
call it the
Dragon King
Festival in
Ishgal.

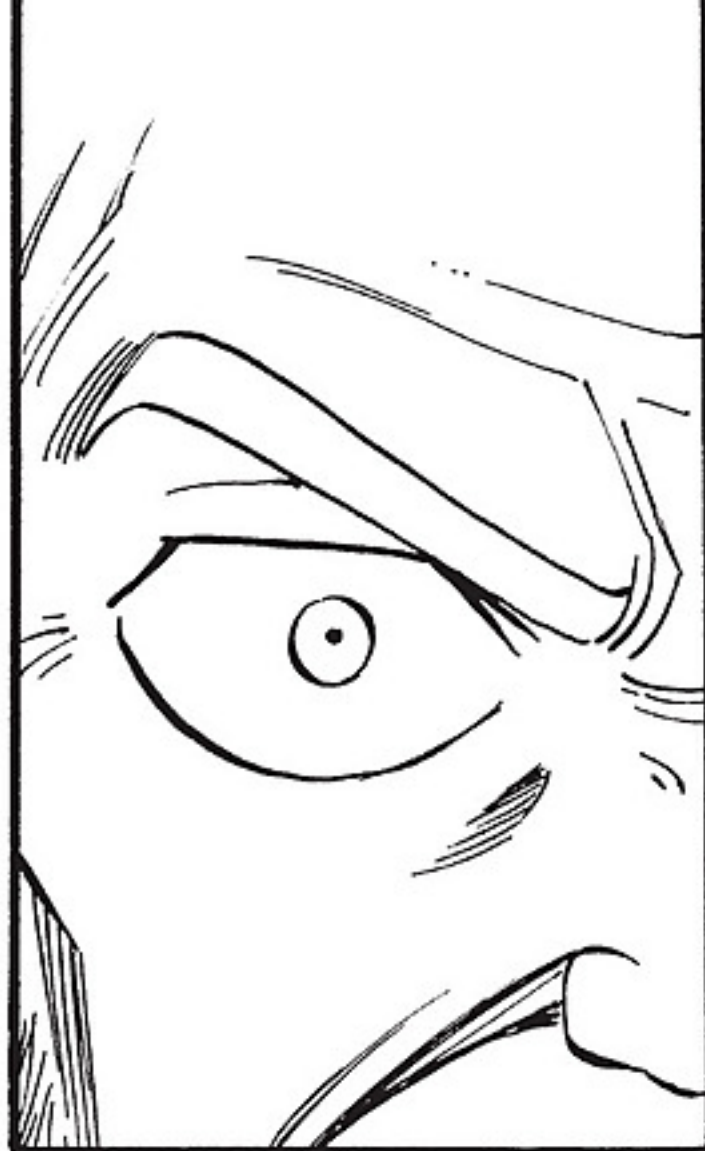








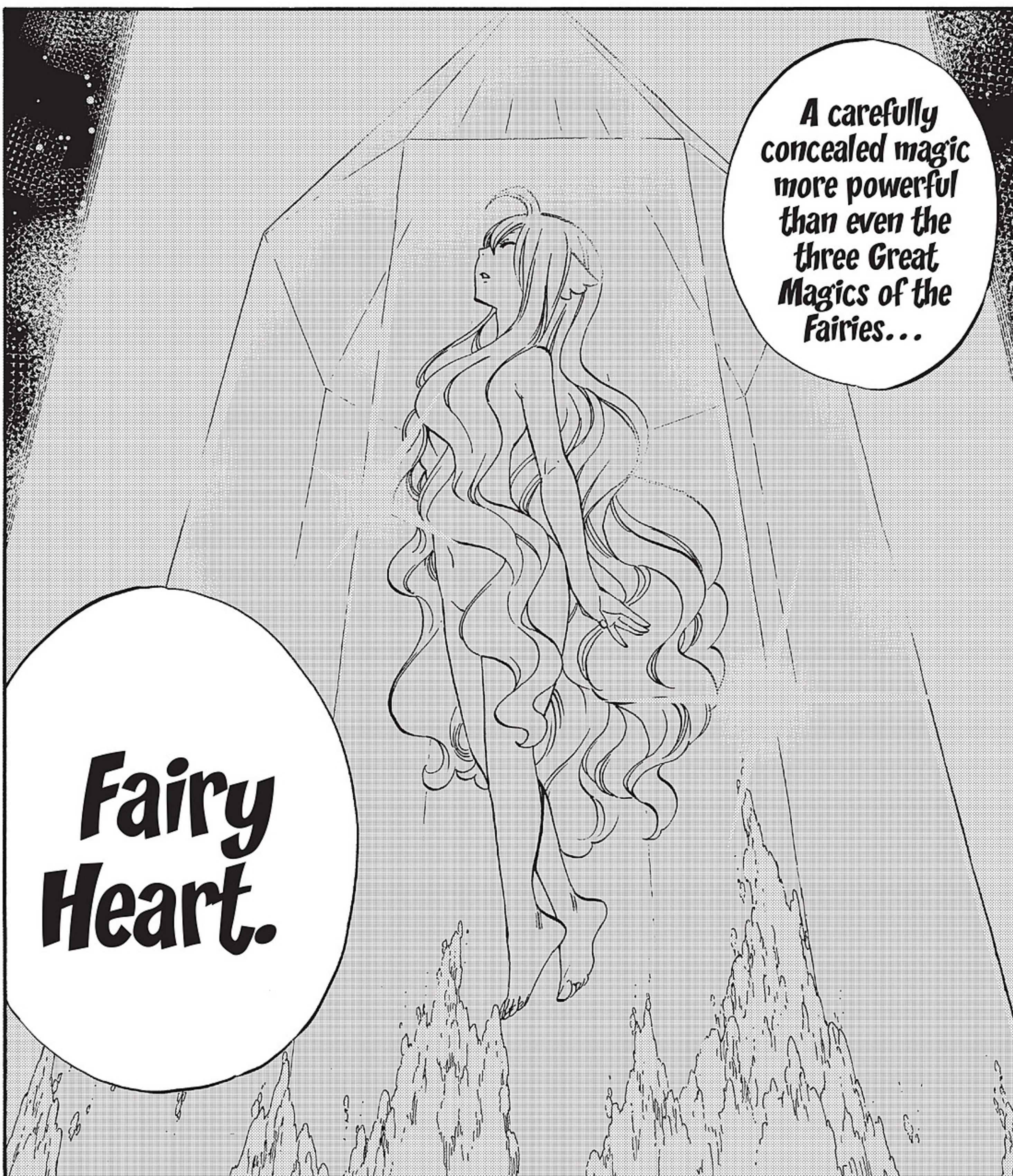




There's
no need for
code names.
I know what
it's officially
called.



All to
get your
hands on
Lumen
Histoire?



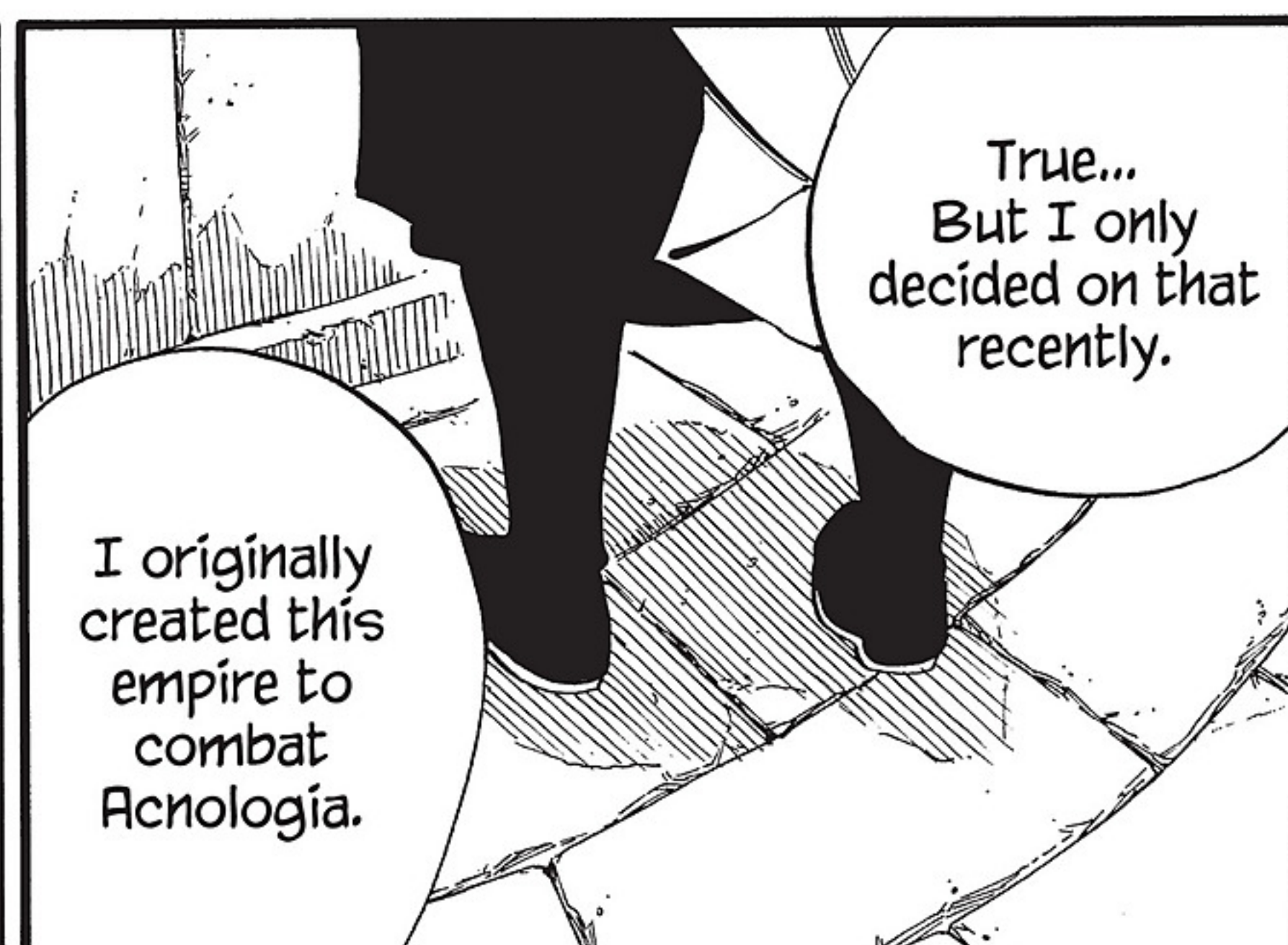
**A carefully
concealed magic
more powerful
than even the
three Great
Magics of the
Fairies...**

**Fairy
Heart.**



You
were after
Fairy Heart
because you
are Zeref.

That
connects
all the
dots.



And it wasn't my
decision to send
in troops ten
years ago.

There was
one member of
the 12 who just
wouldn't listen
to reason.

I originally
created this
empire to
combat
Acnologia.

True...
But I only
decided on that
recently.



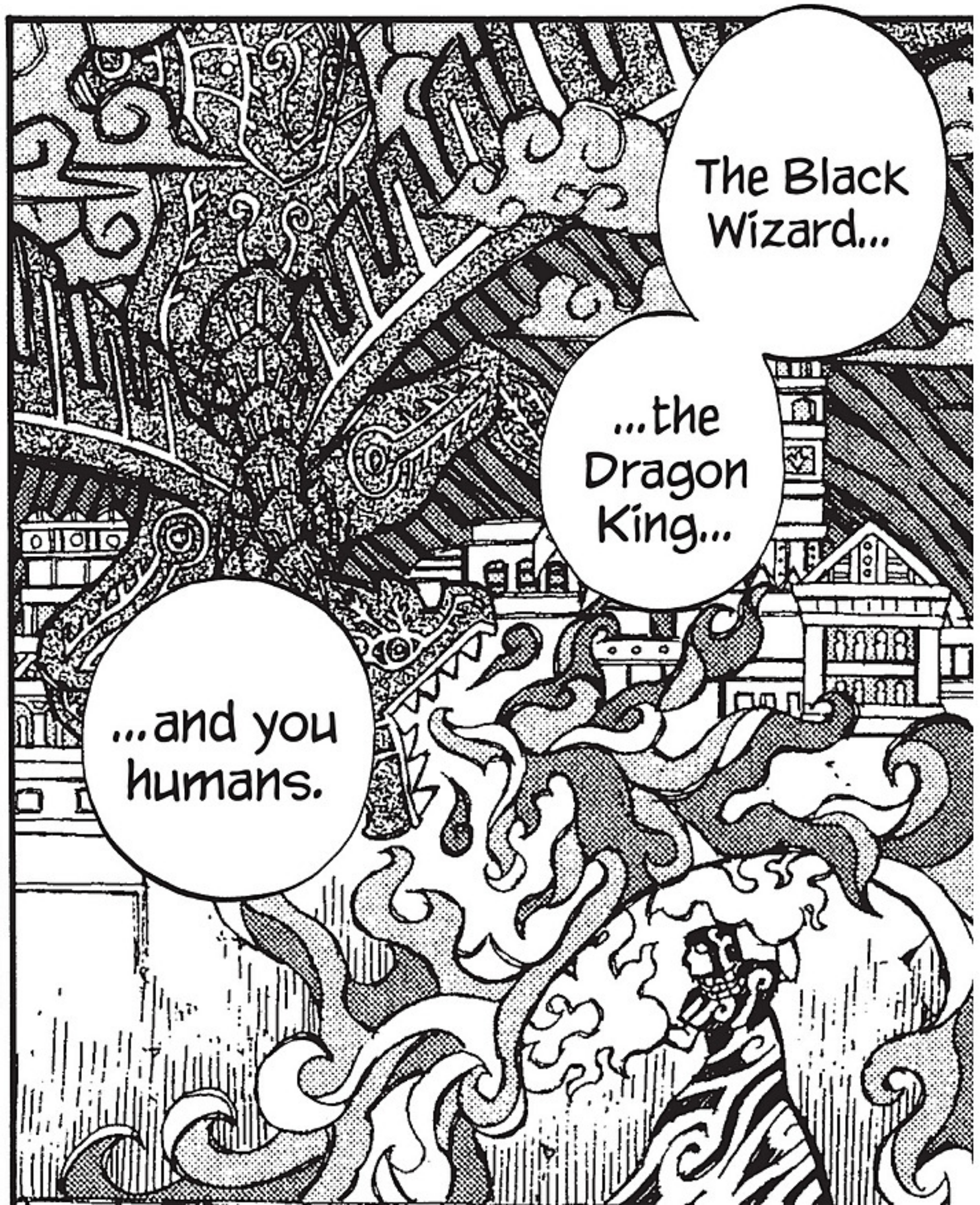
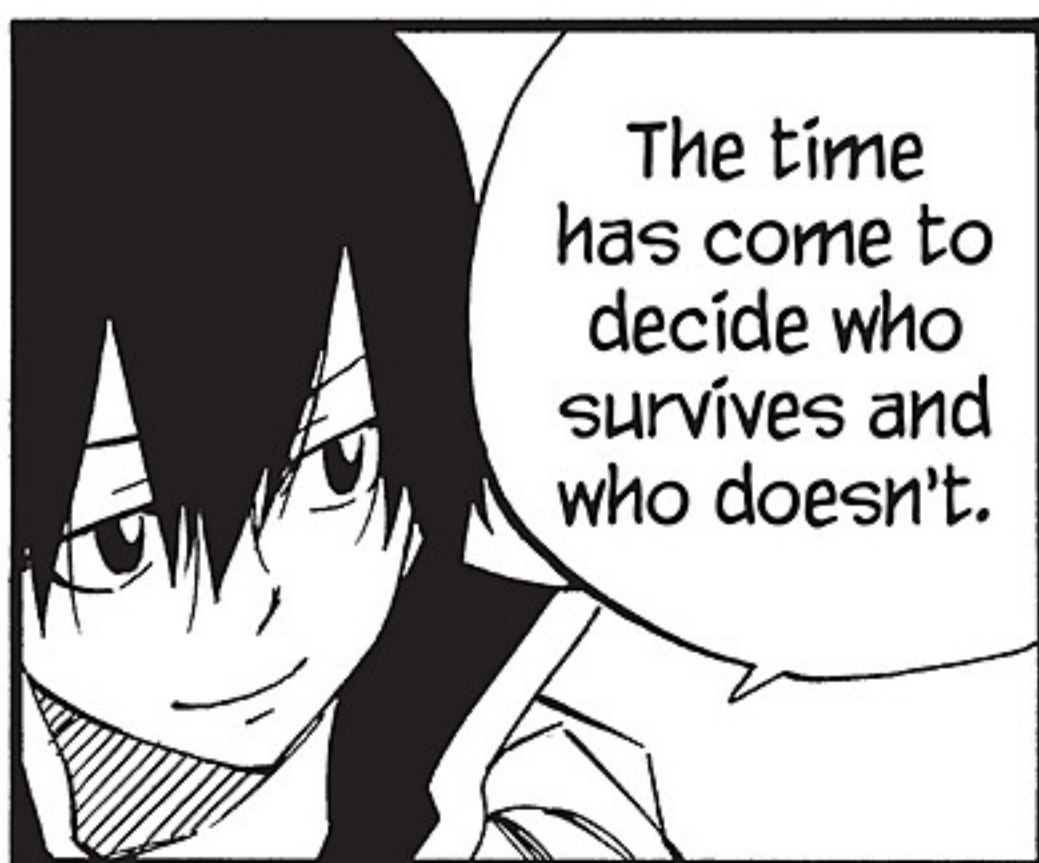
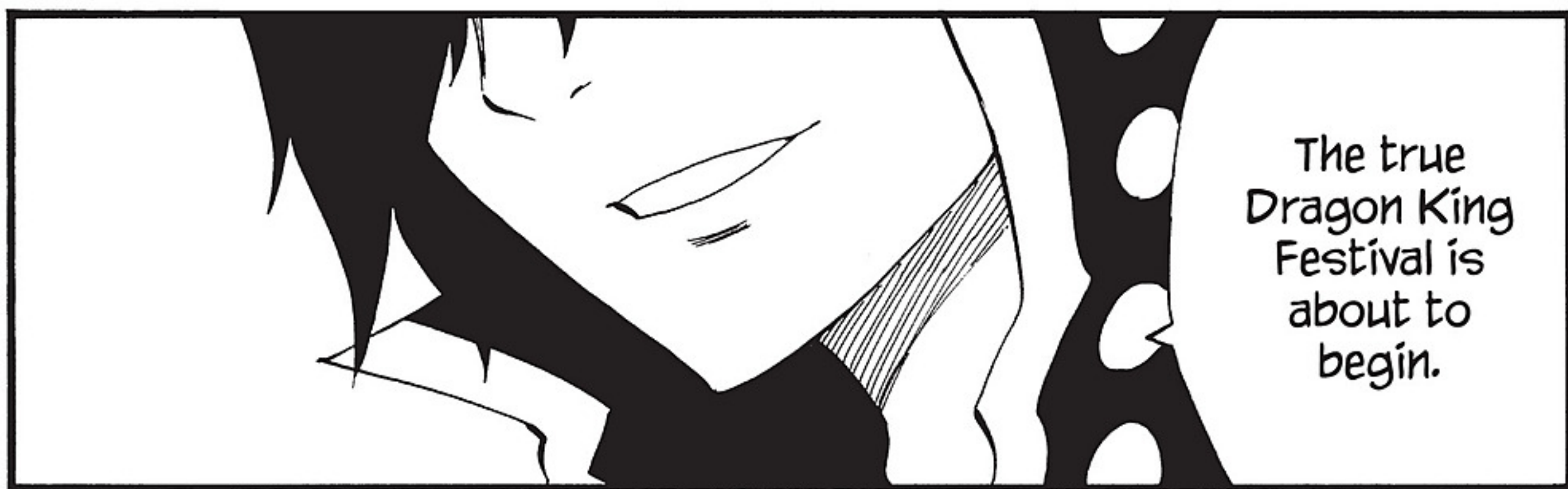
But this time, I
doubt either Ishgal or
Acnologia will stand
a chance against
Albareth.

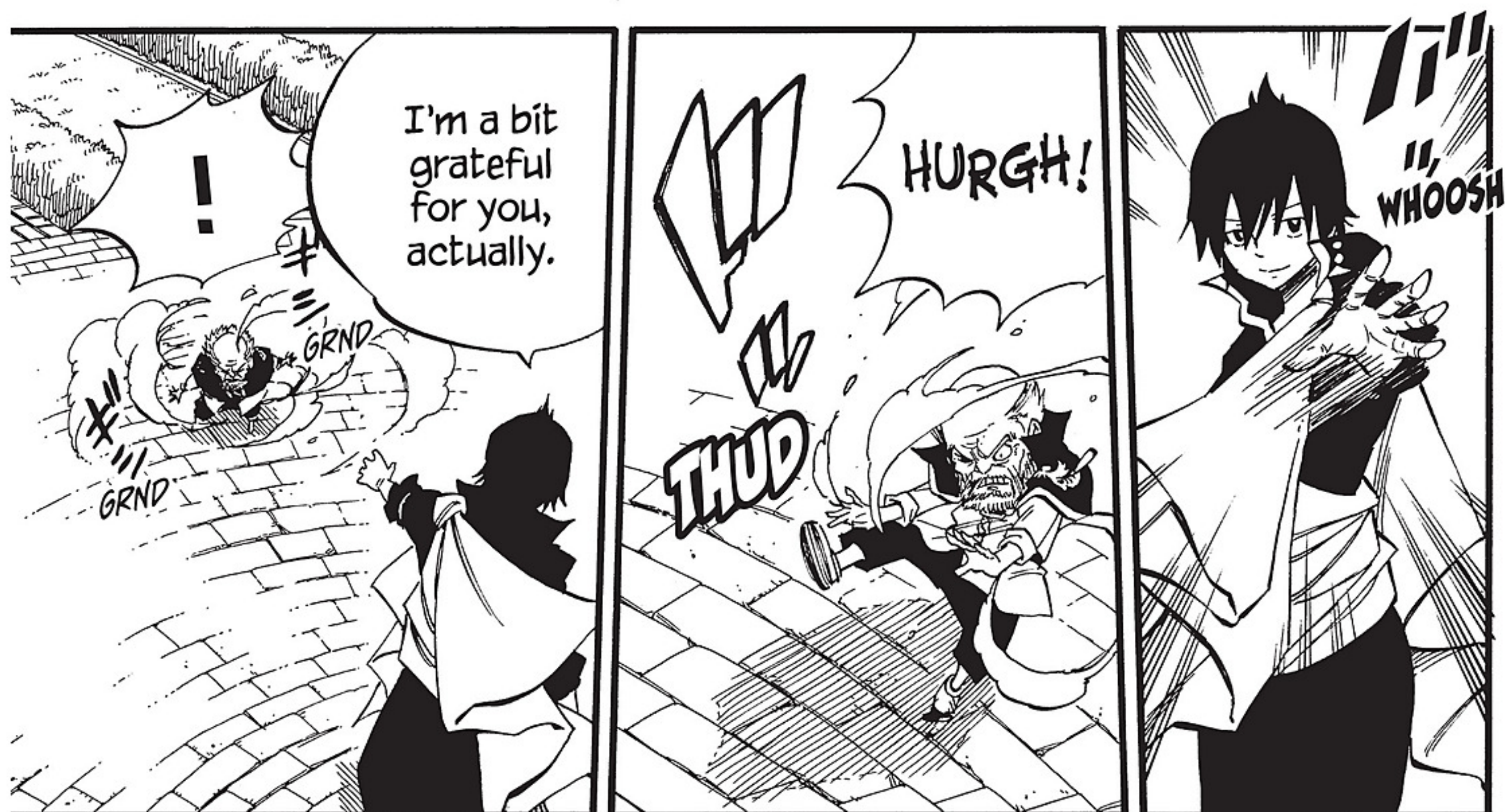
It wasn't because
of the Council's
weapons? Etherion
and Face?

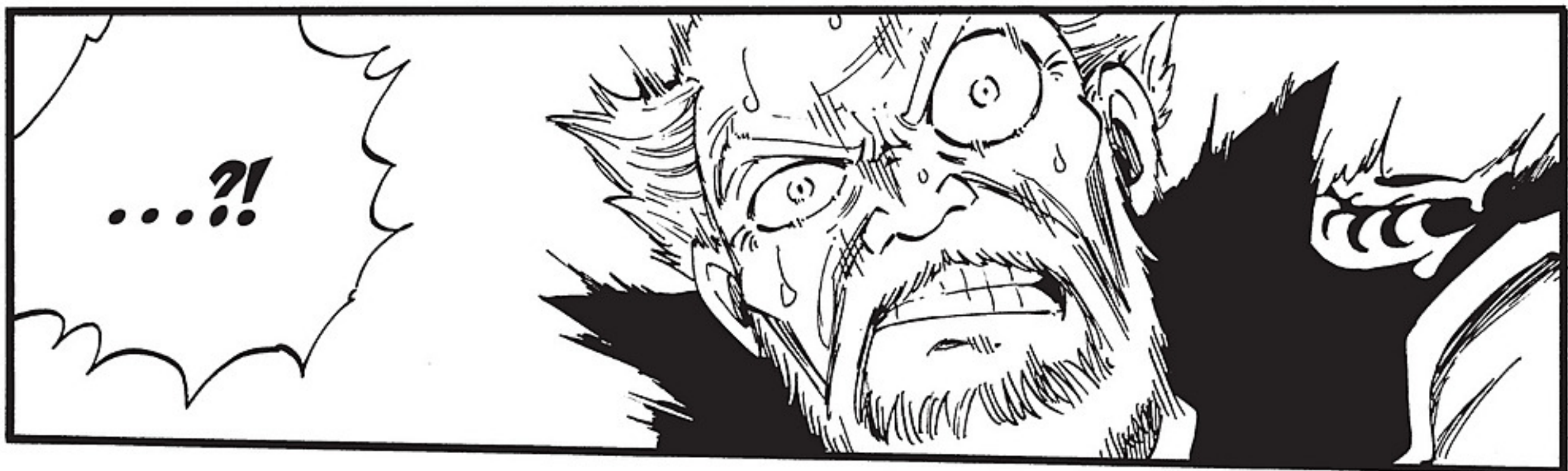
But I did
put a stop
to the
invasion...
because the
time wasn't
right.



Of course that
was a part of it.
They would have
caused *us* wide-
spread damage
as well.

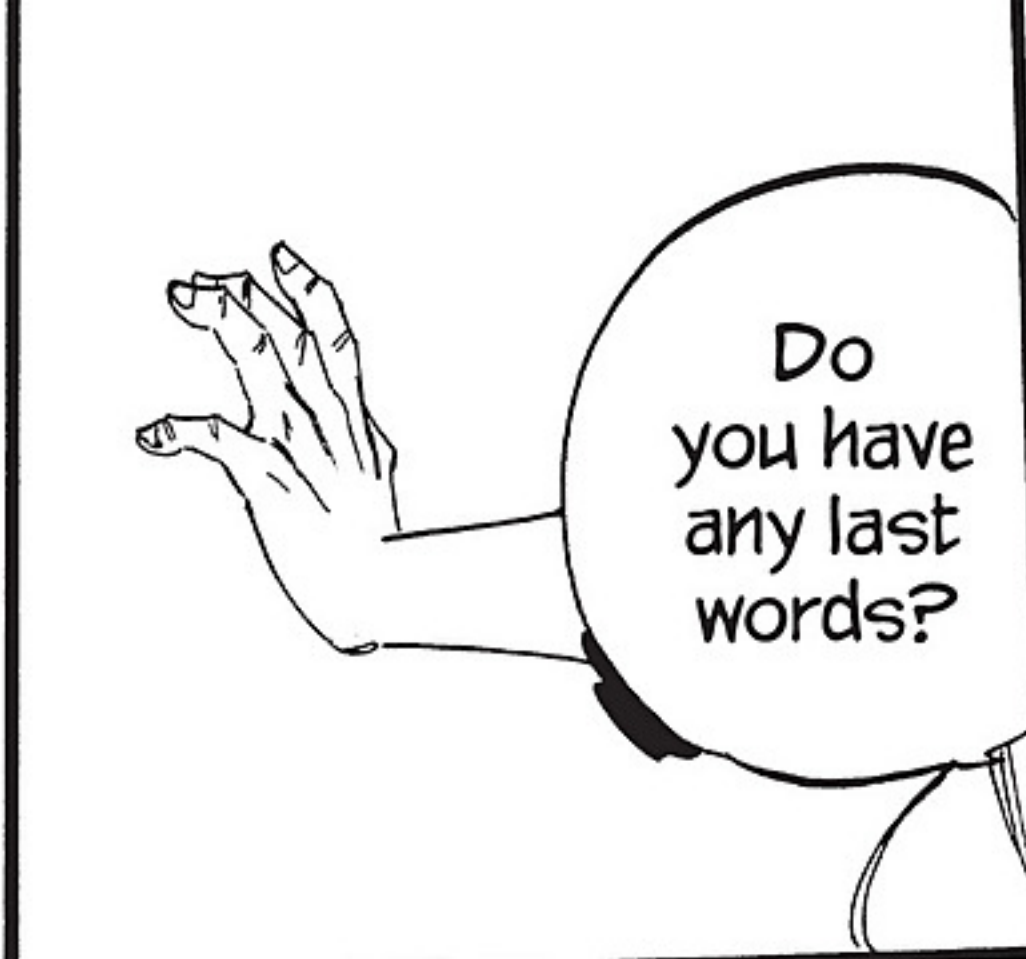




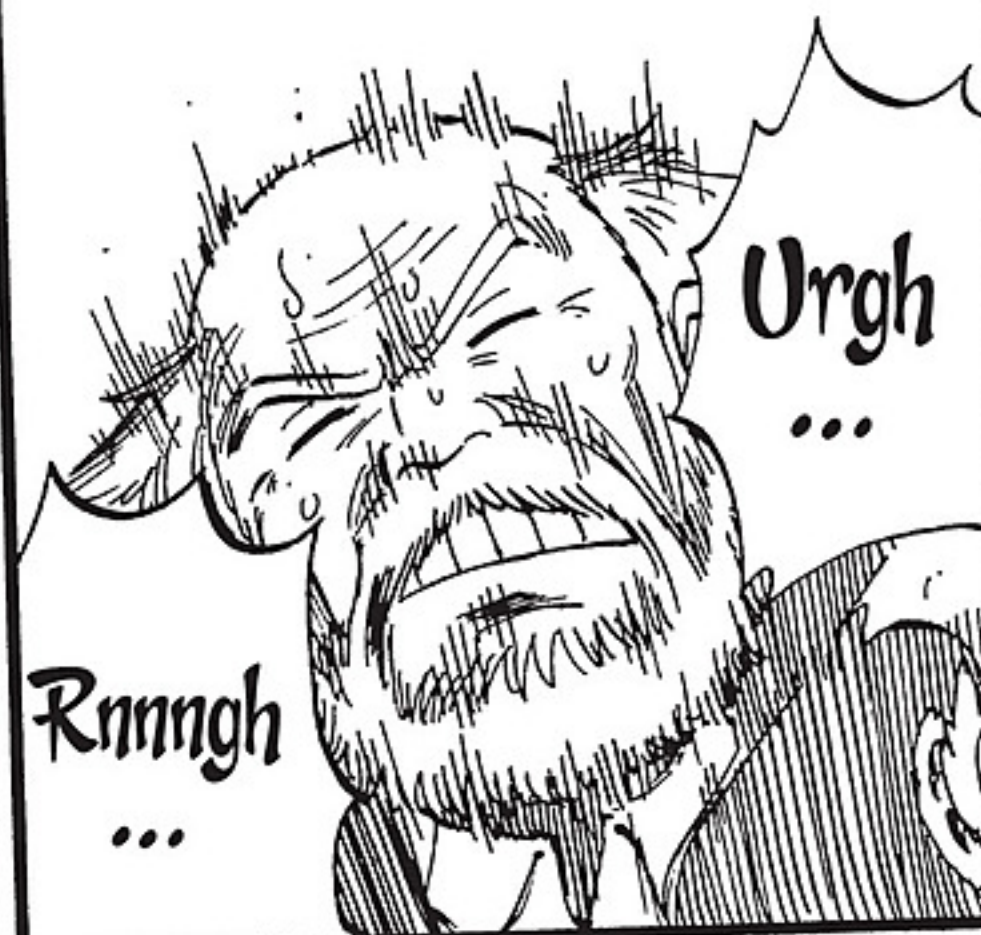




Ngh...
You...

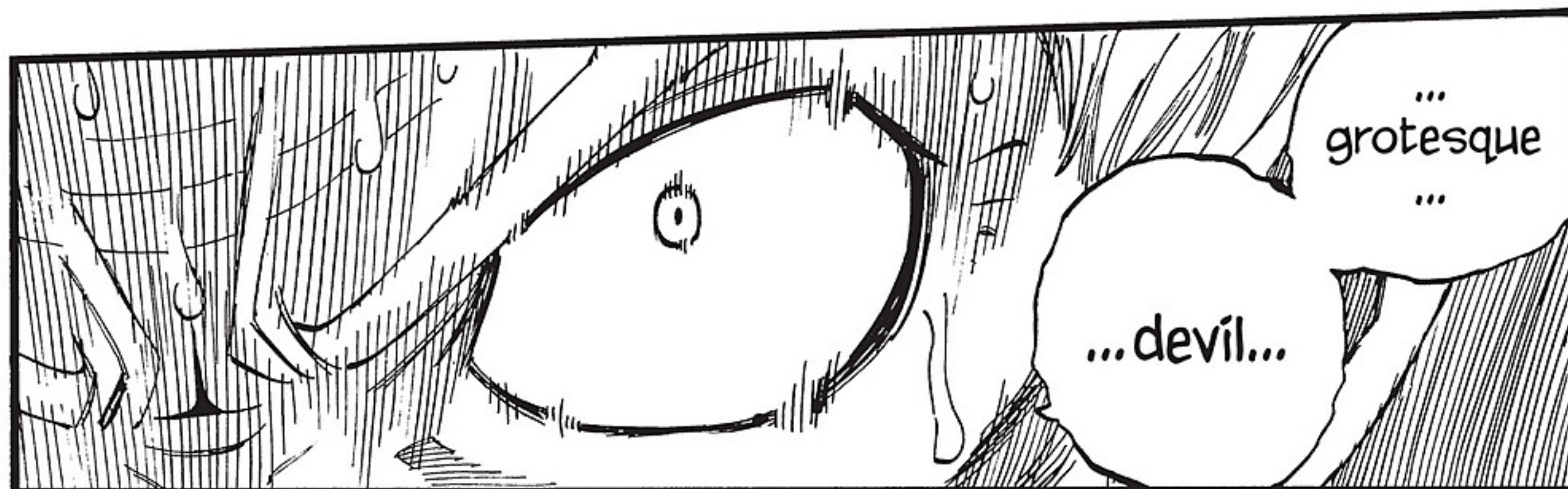


Do
you have
any last
words?



Rnnngh
...

Urgh
...



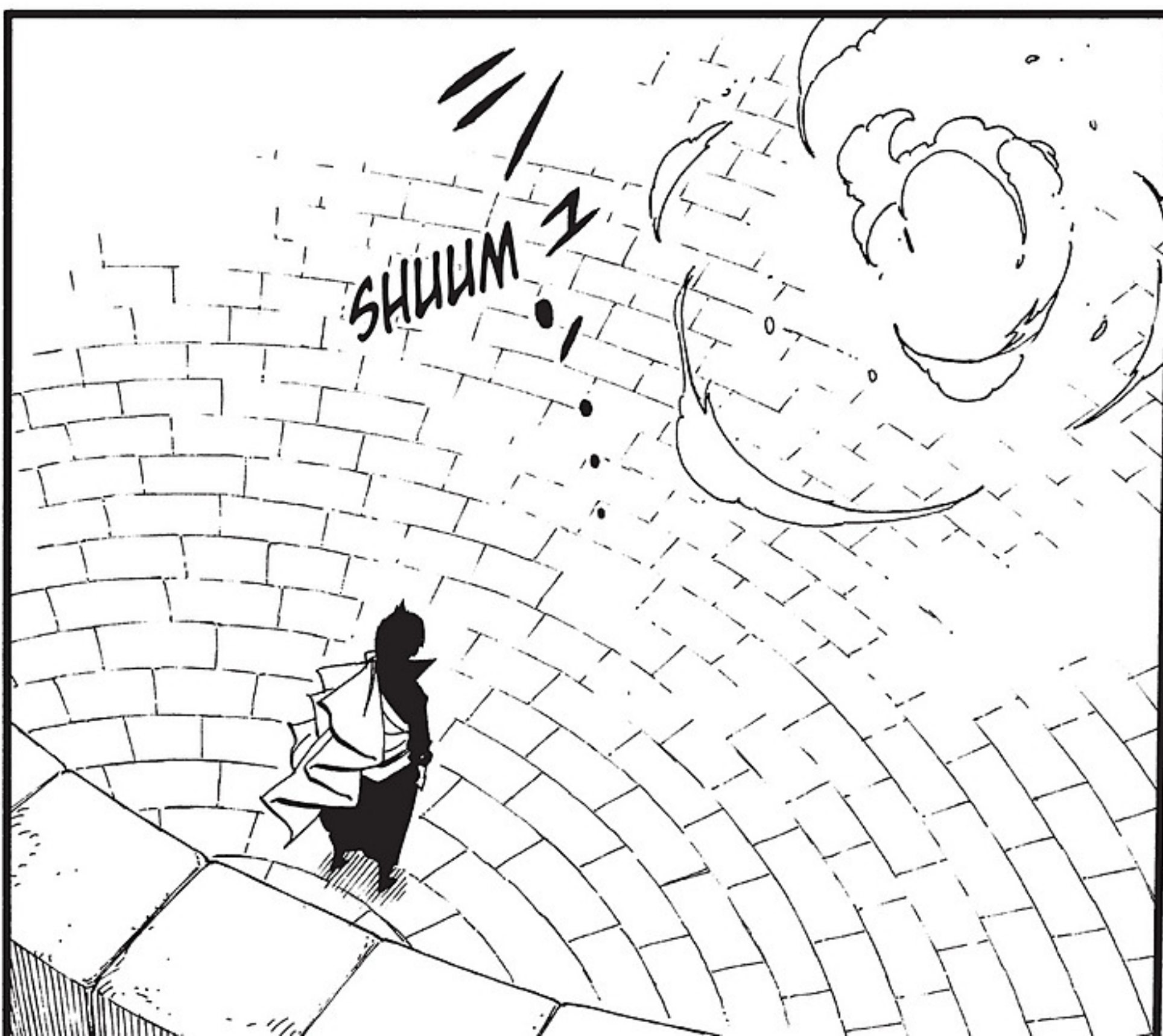
...
grotesque
...

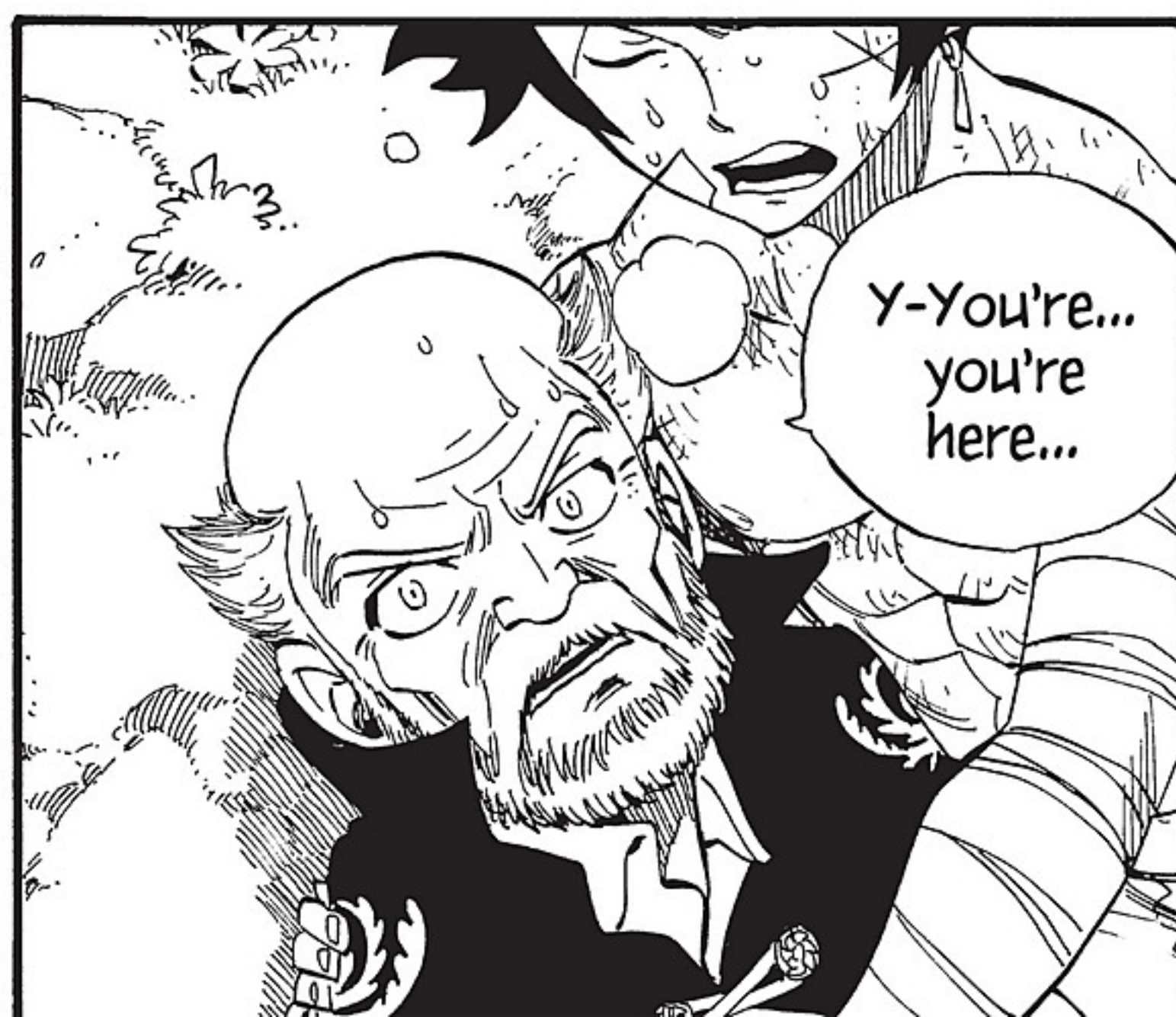
...devil...

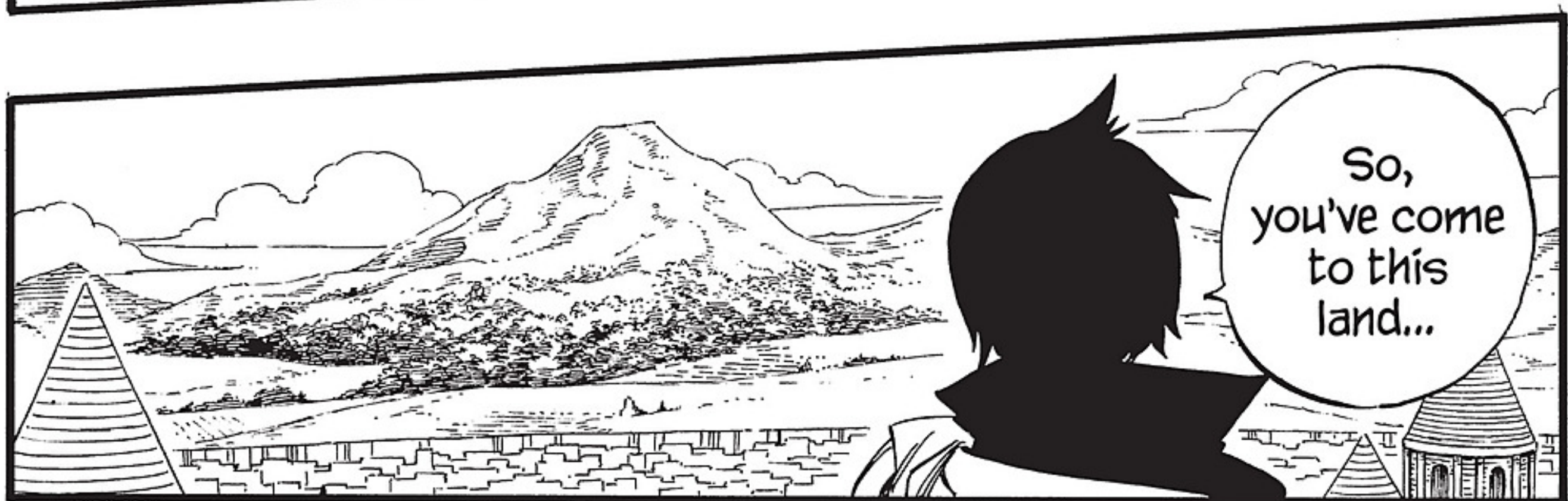
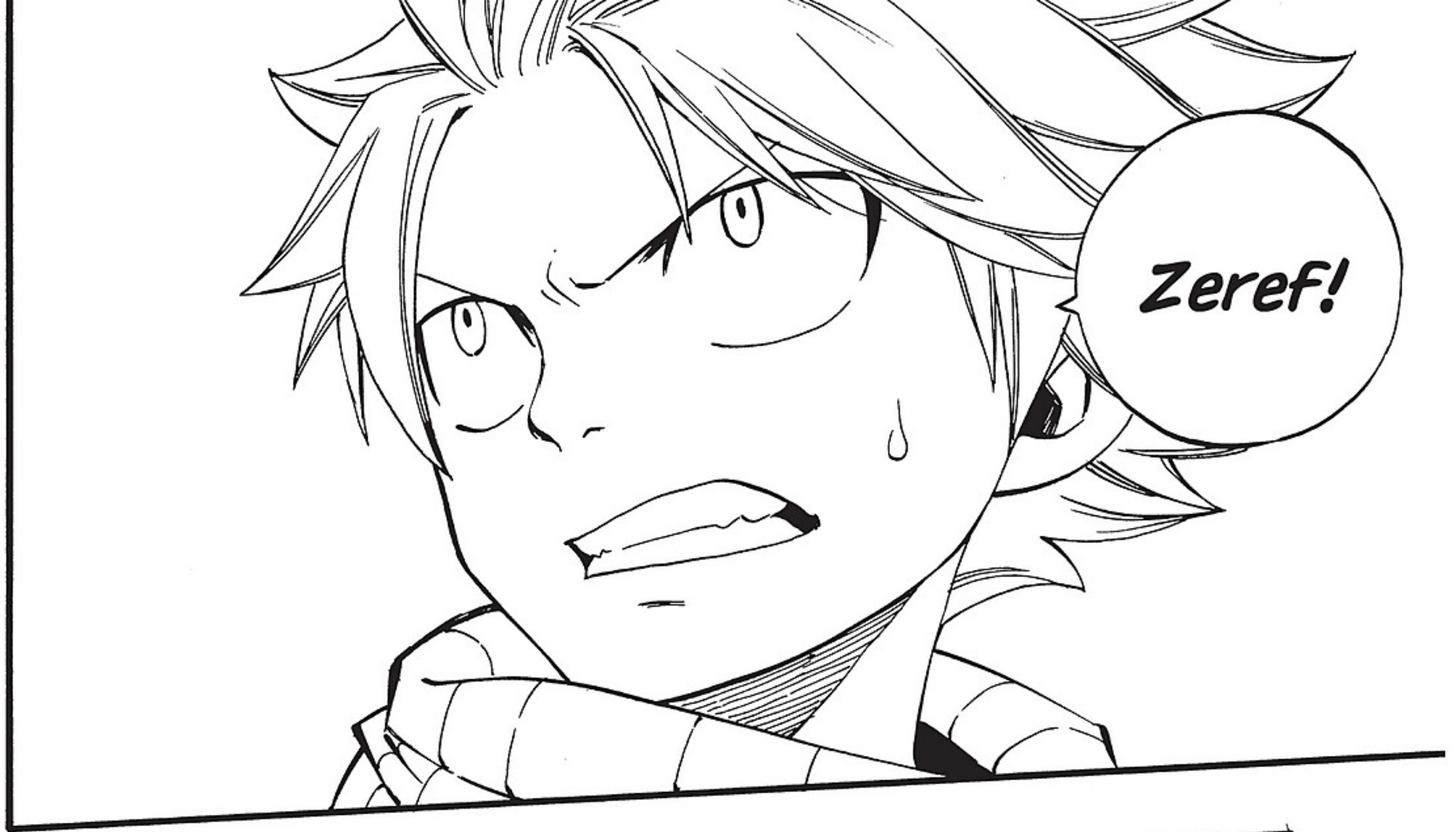


Oh, so
close!

Spriggan
is actually
a name for
a grotesque
fairy.



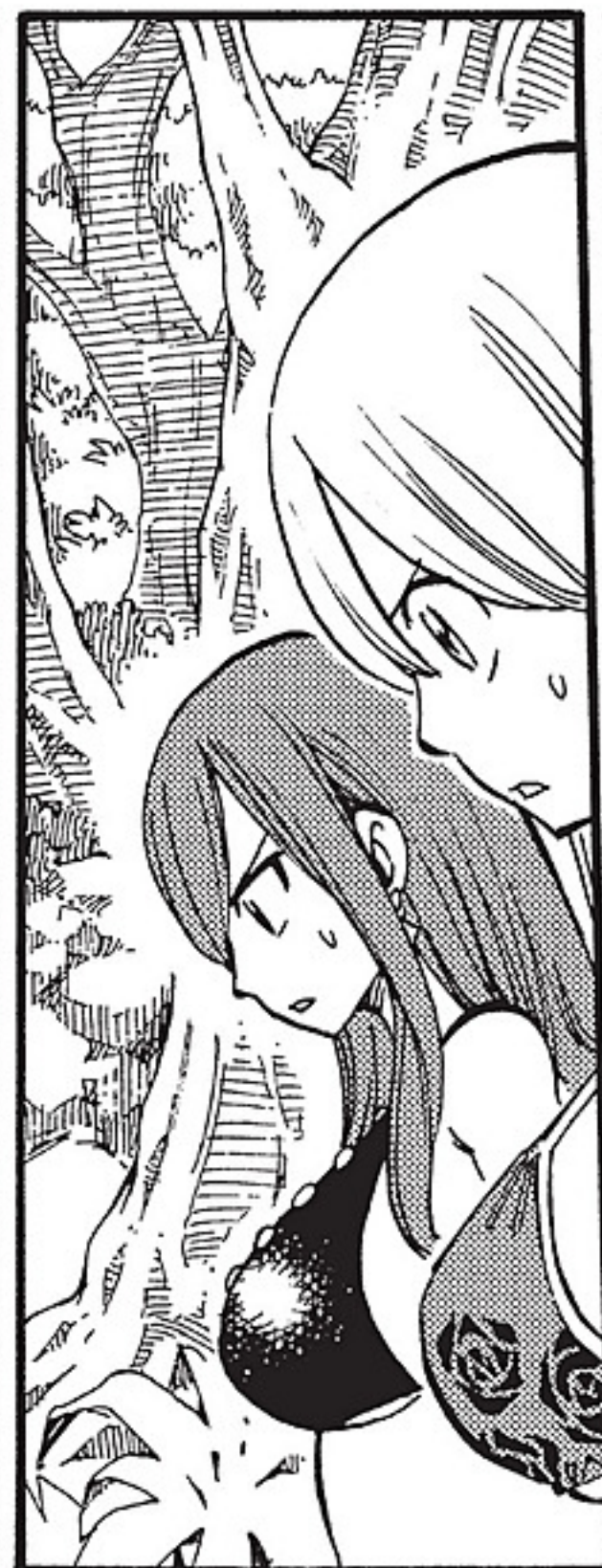
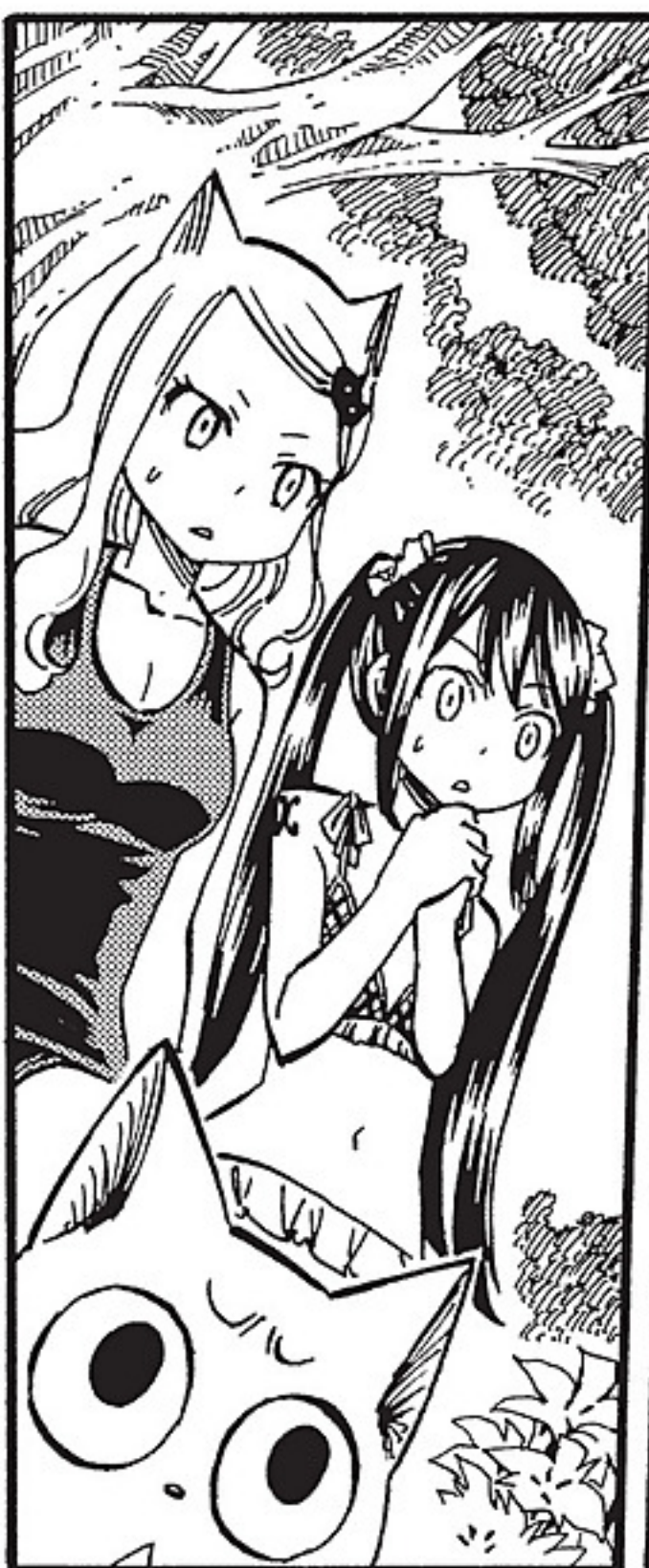
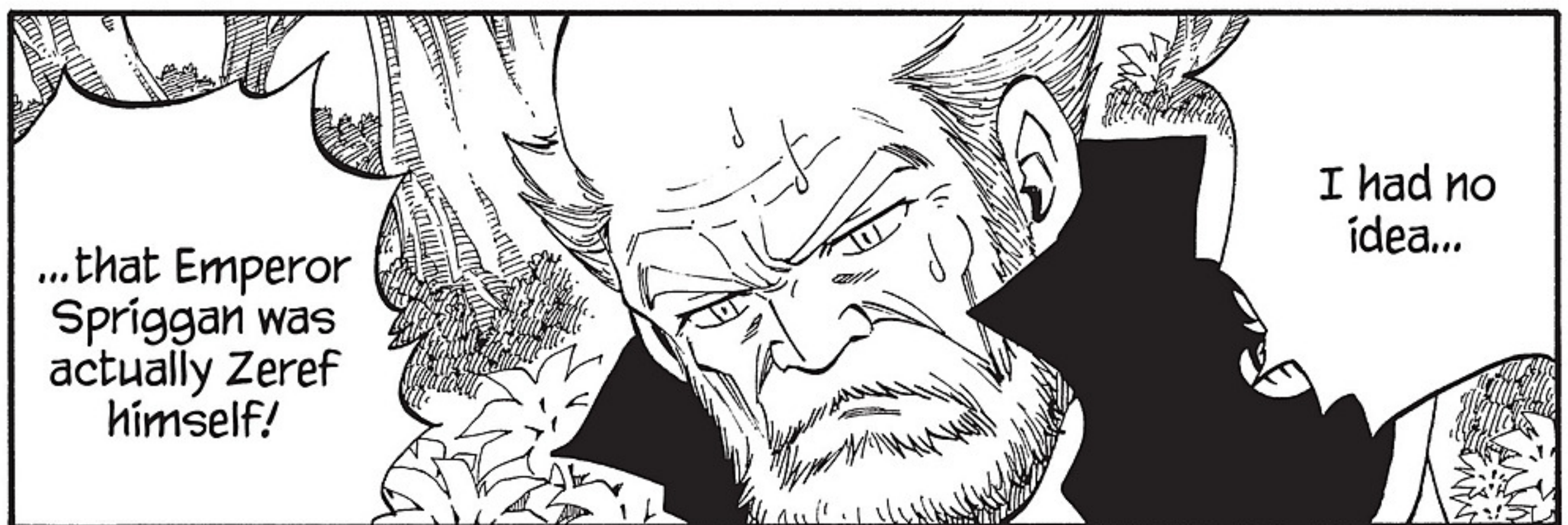
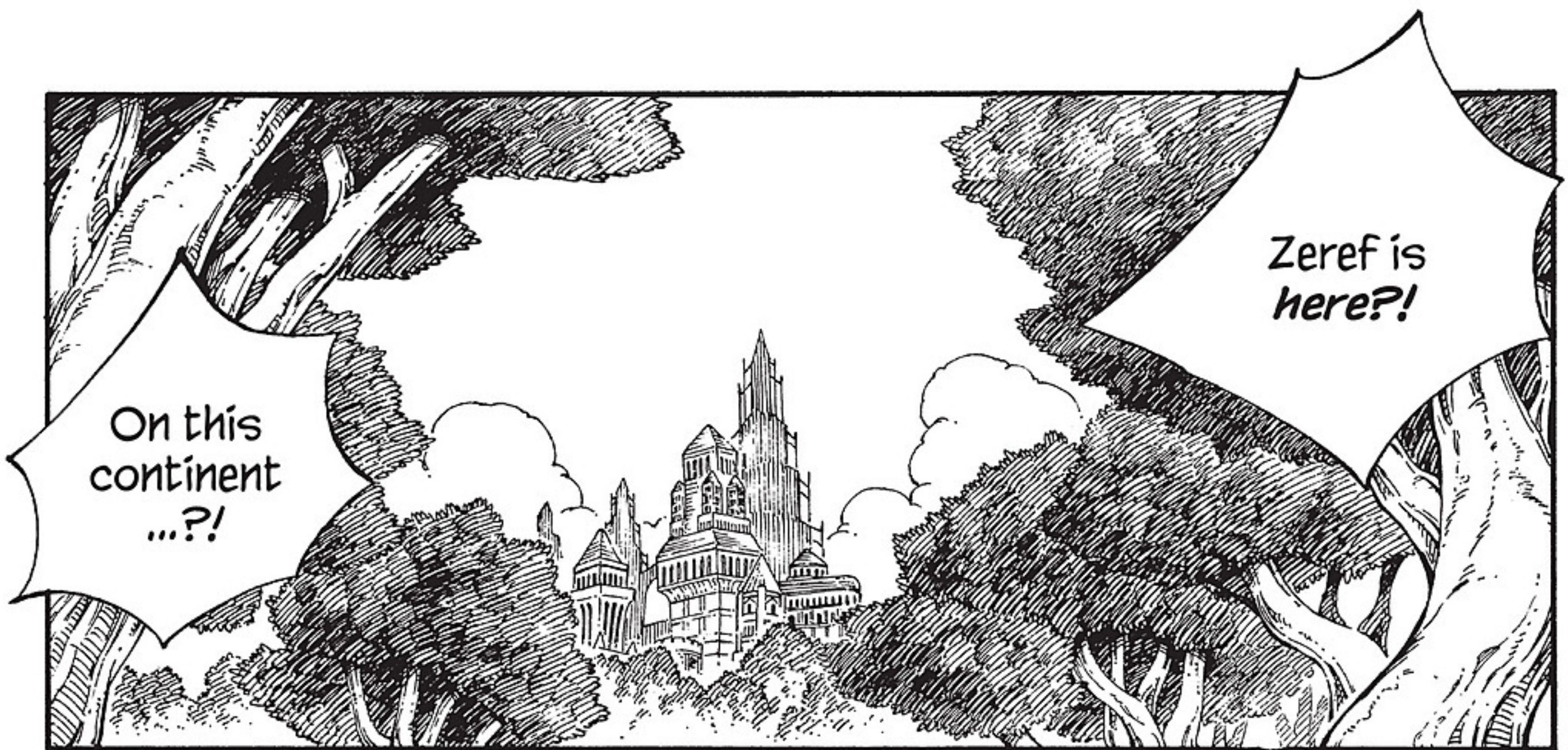






Chapter 446: The Land the Gods Abandoned

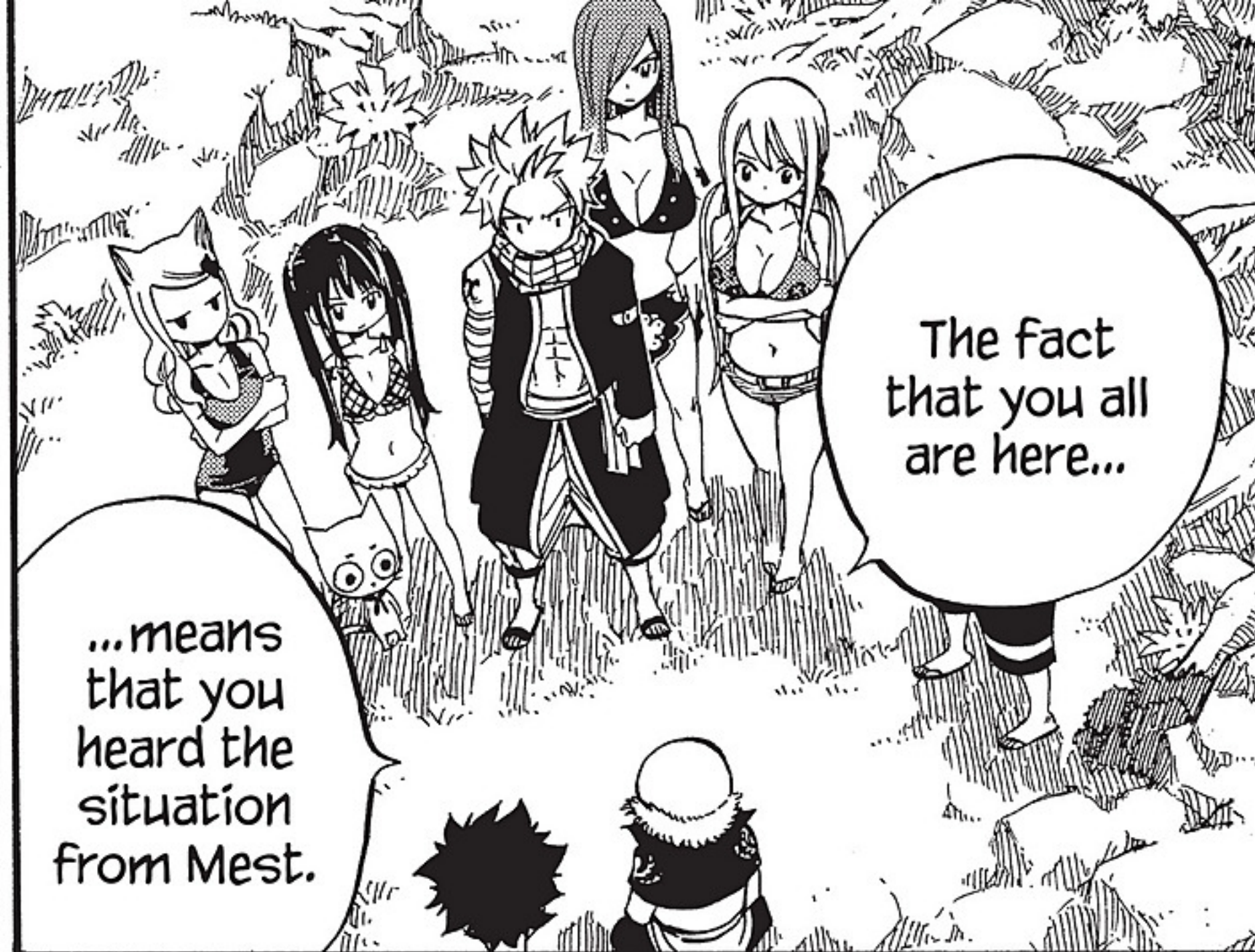






Anyway,
we're happy
to have you
back, safe
and sound!

Yes.



...means
that you
heard the
situation
from Mest.

The fact
that you all
are here...

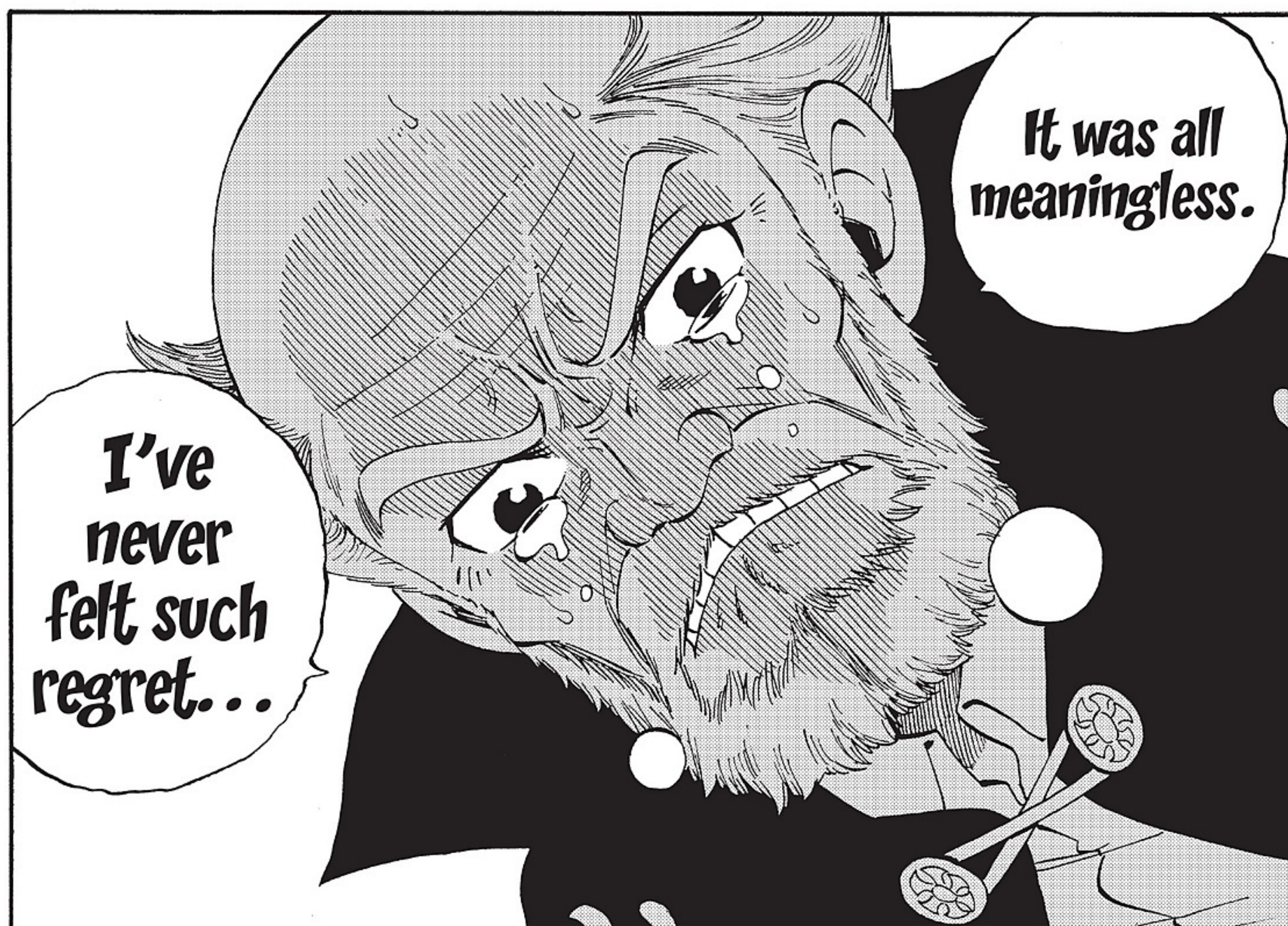


All after
I sullied
the name of
the guild to
come here!



...They had no
intention of
negotiating
from the
start!

I didn't
consider
this deeply
enough...



I've
never
felt such
regret...

It was all
meaningless.



And after that, we were able to form up as a guild again!

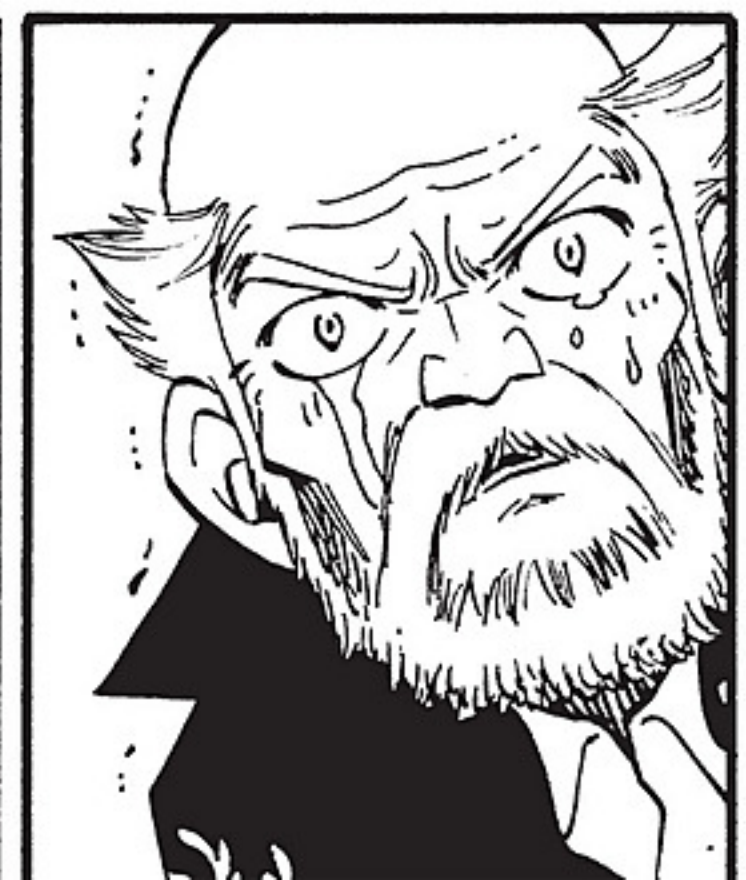
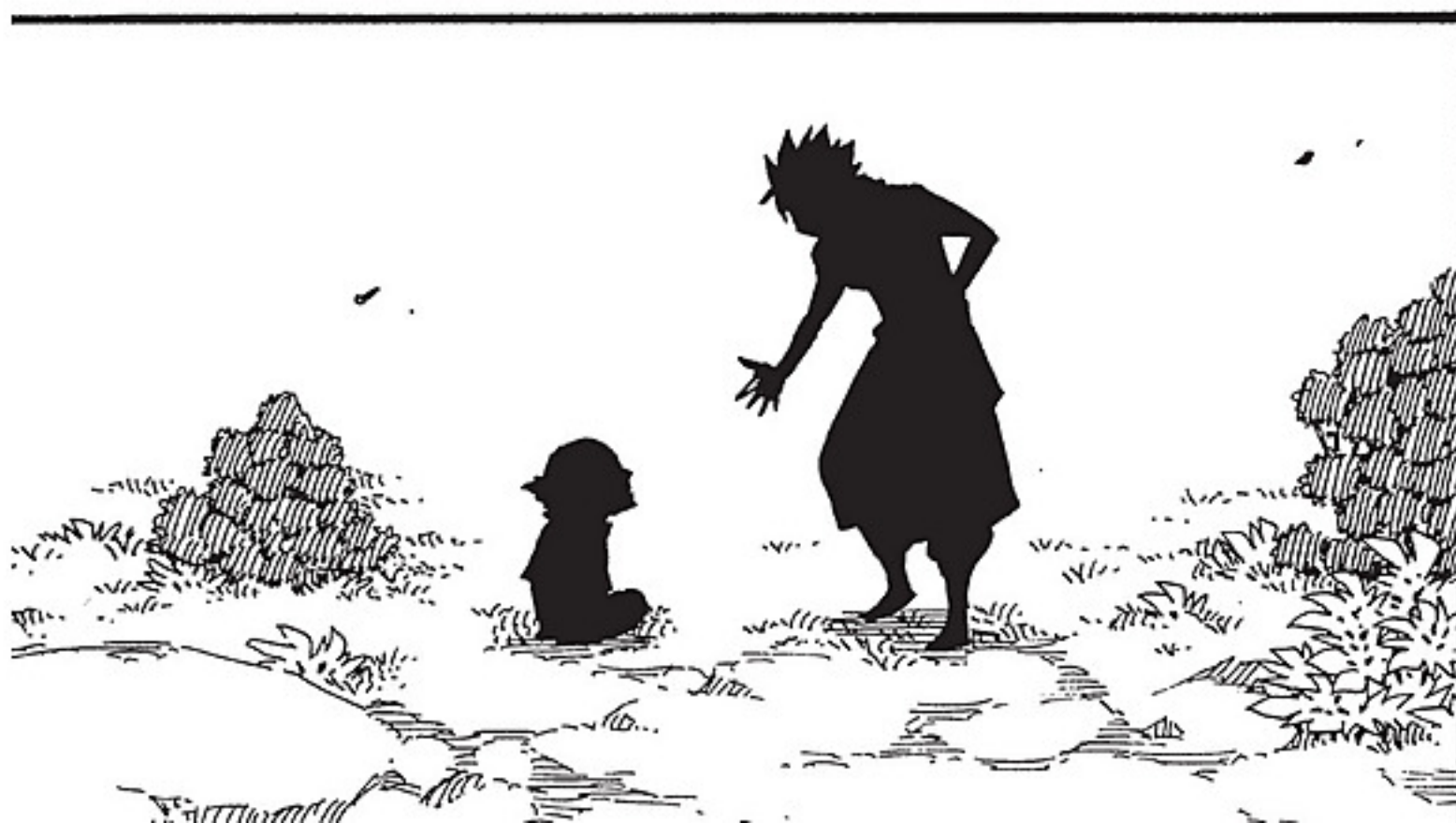
This year made us all that much more mature.

"Meaningless"? Not at all!



I believe that when one commits an act out of love, it is *always* meaningful.

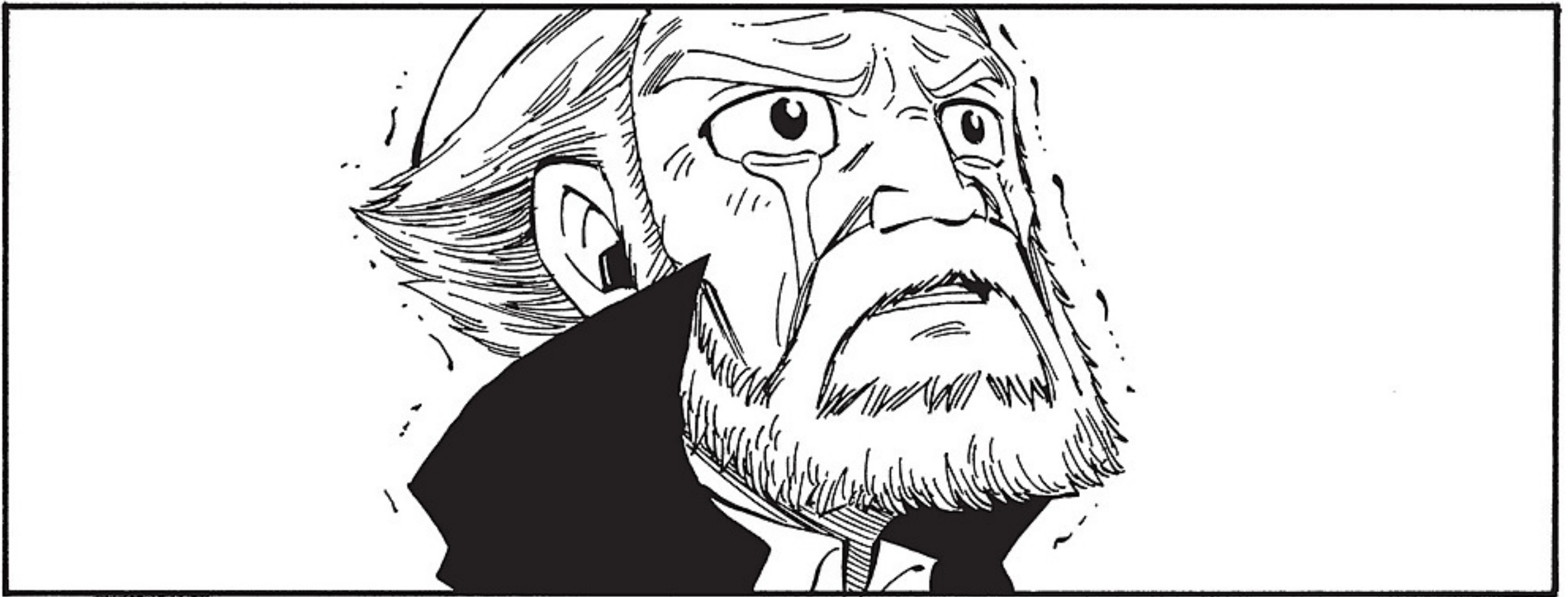
For that is what you taught me.



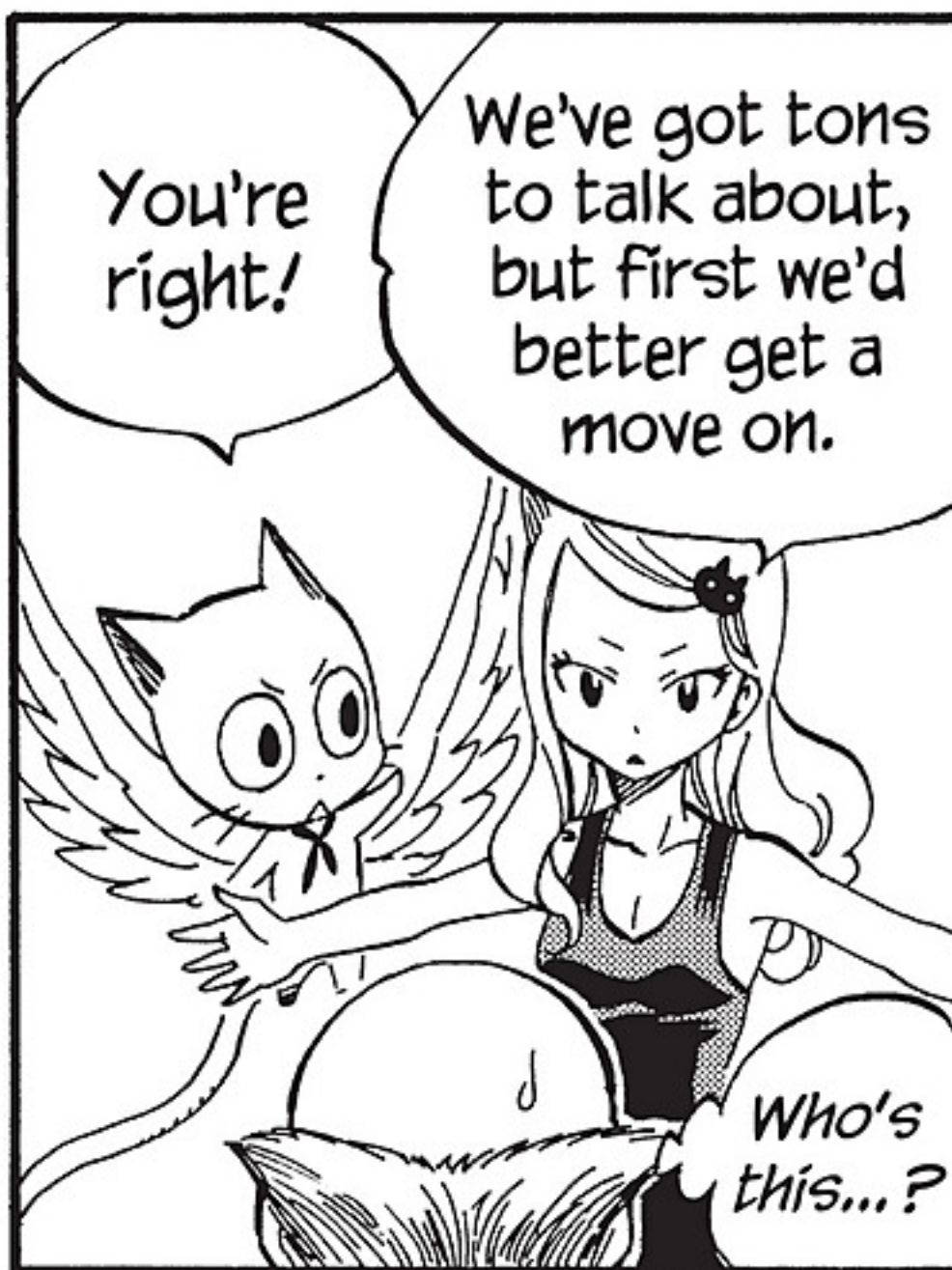


**Gramps,
let's go
back...**

**...
to Fairy
Tail!**



I've been overusing my Direct Line. I can only transport us all one more time with the magic power I have left.



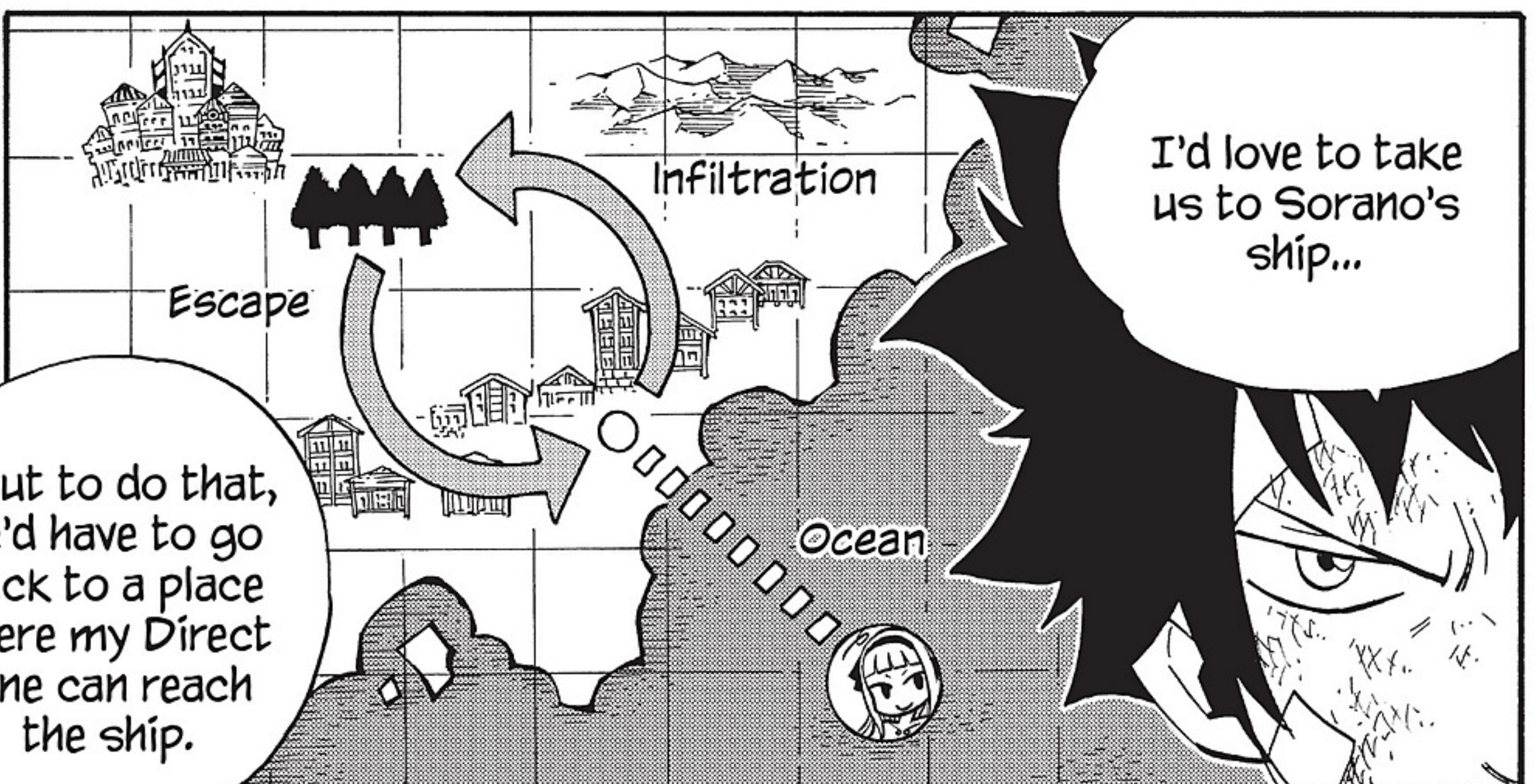
You're right!

We've got tons to talk about, but first we'd better get a move on.

Who's this...?



Yes...



I'd love to take us to Sorano's ship...

...but to do that, we'd have to go back to a place where my Direct Line can reach the ship.



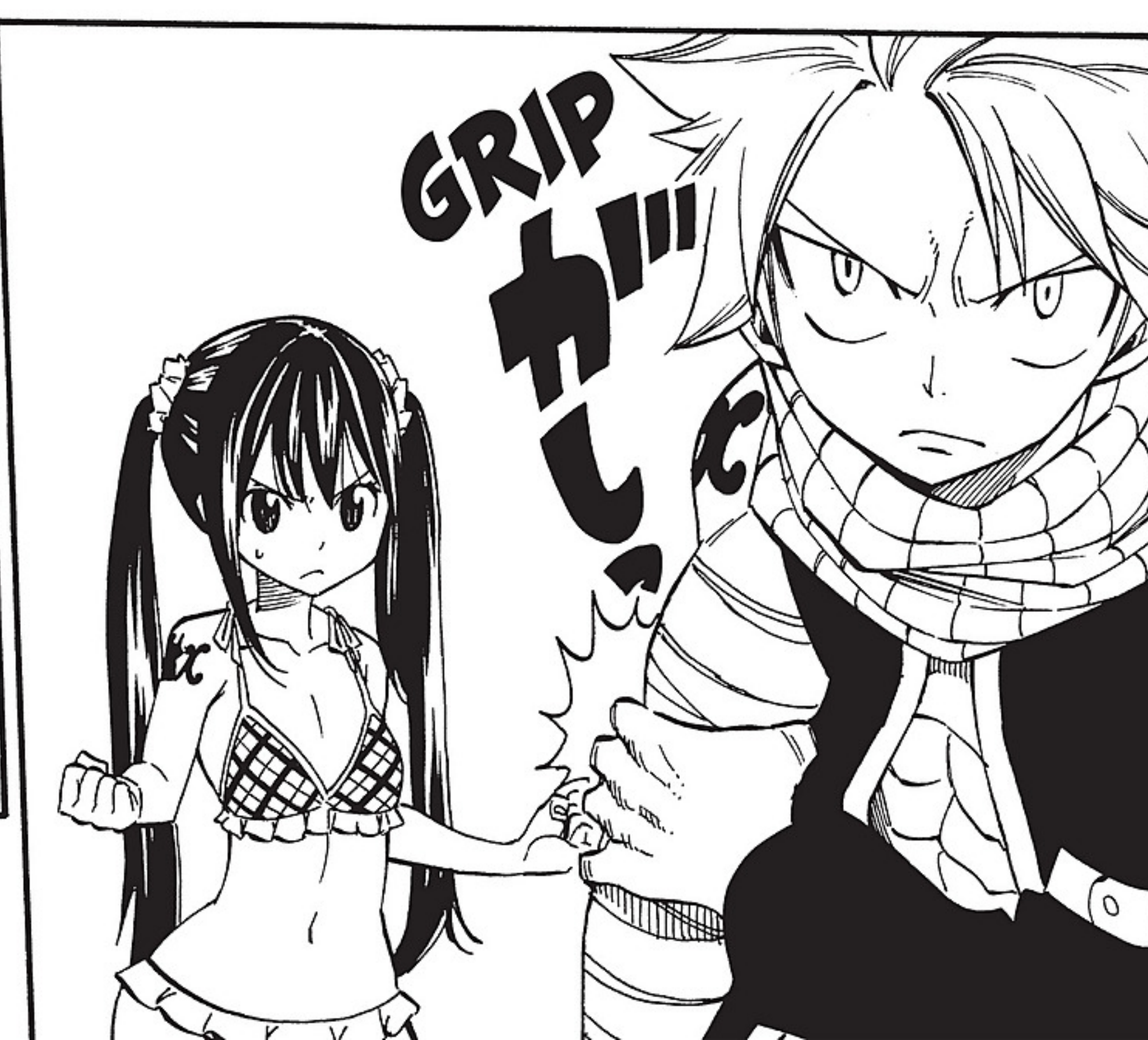
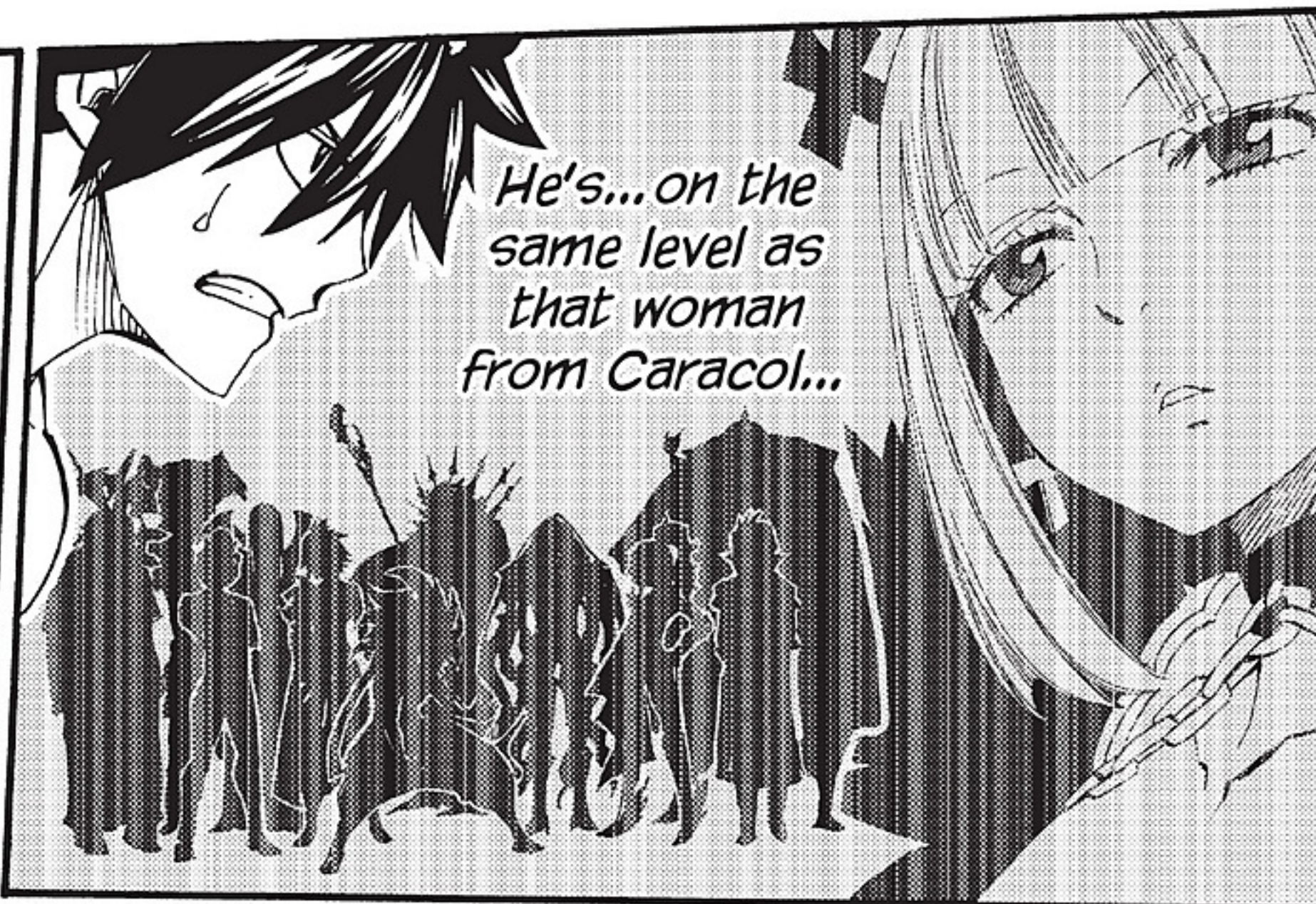
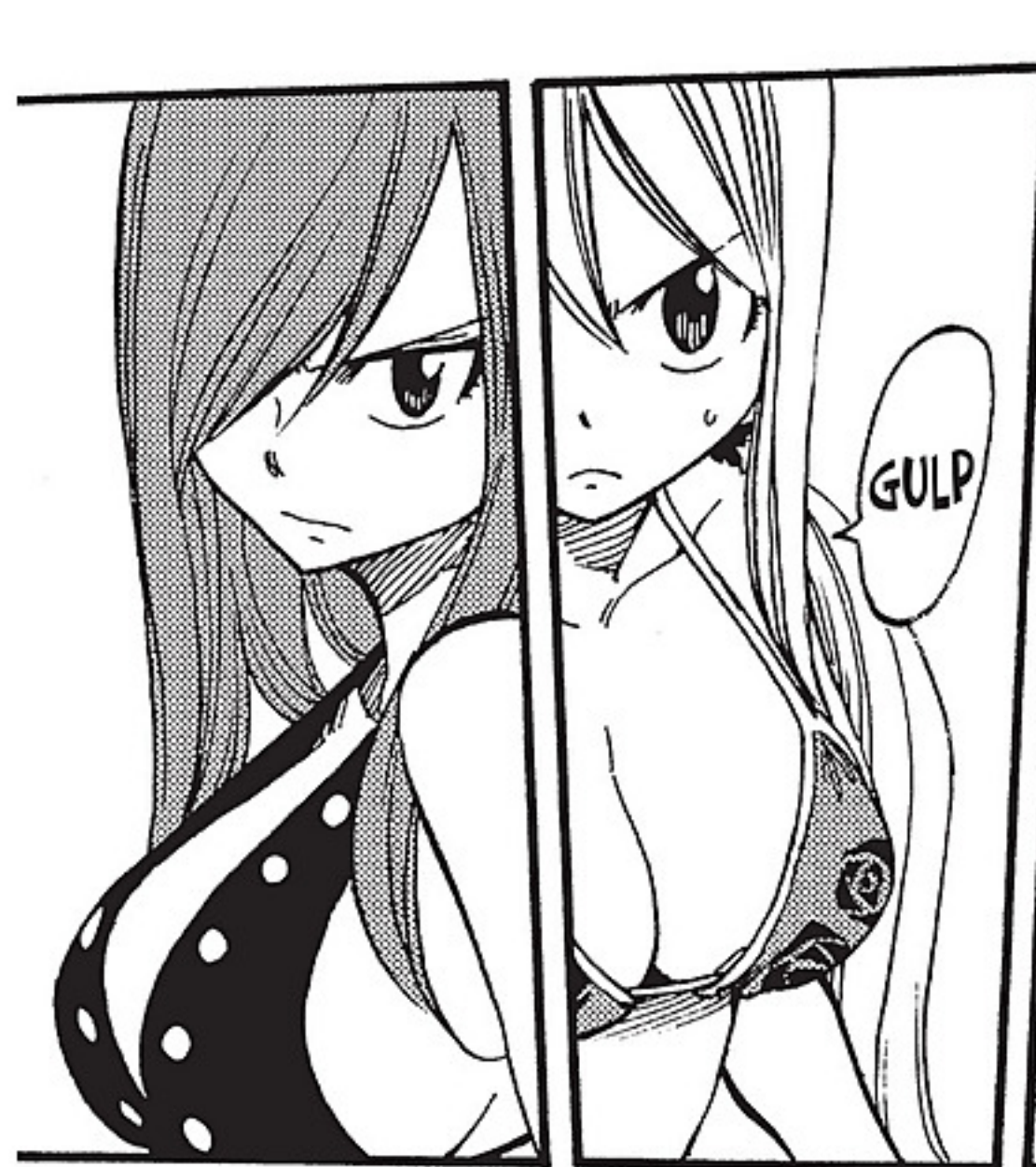
And here I
thought we
were gonna
be great
friends...

Leaving
so soon,
Makarov?

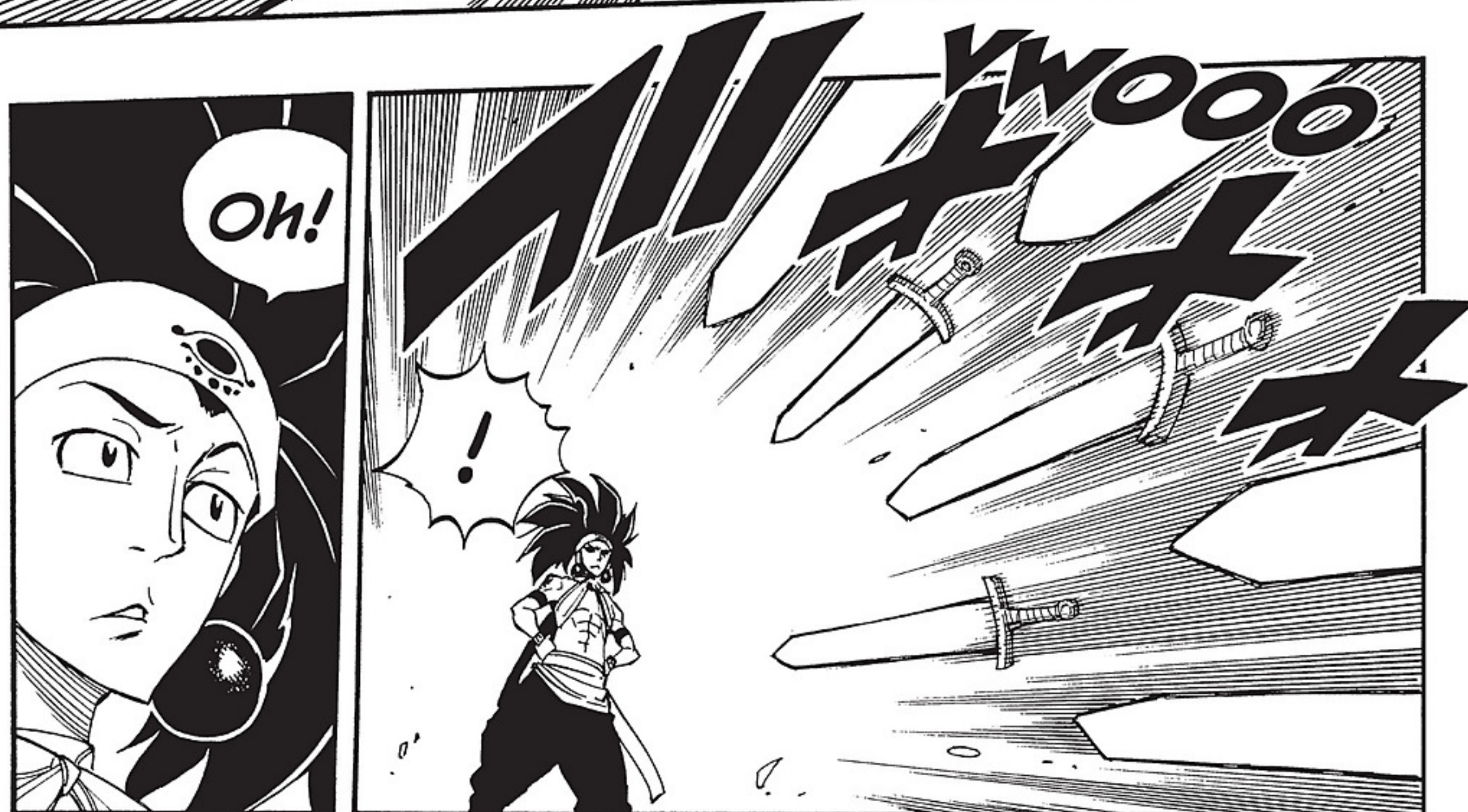
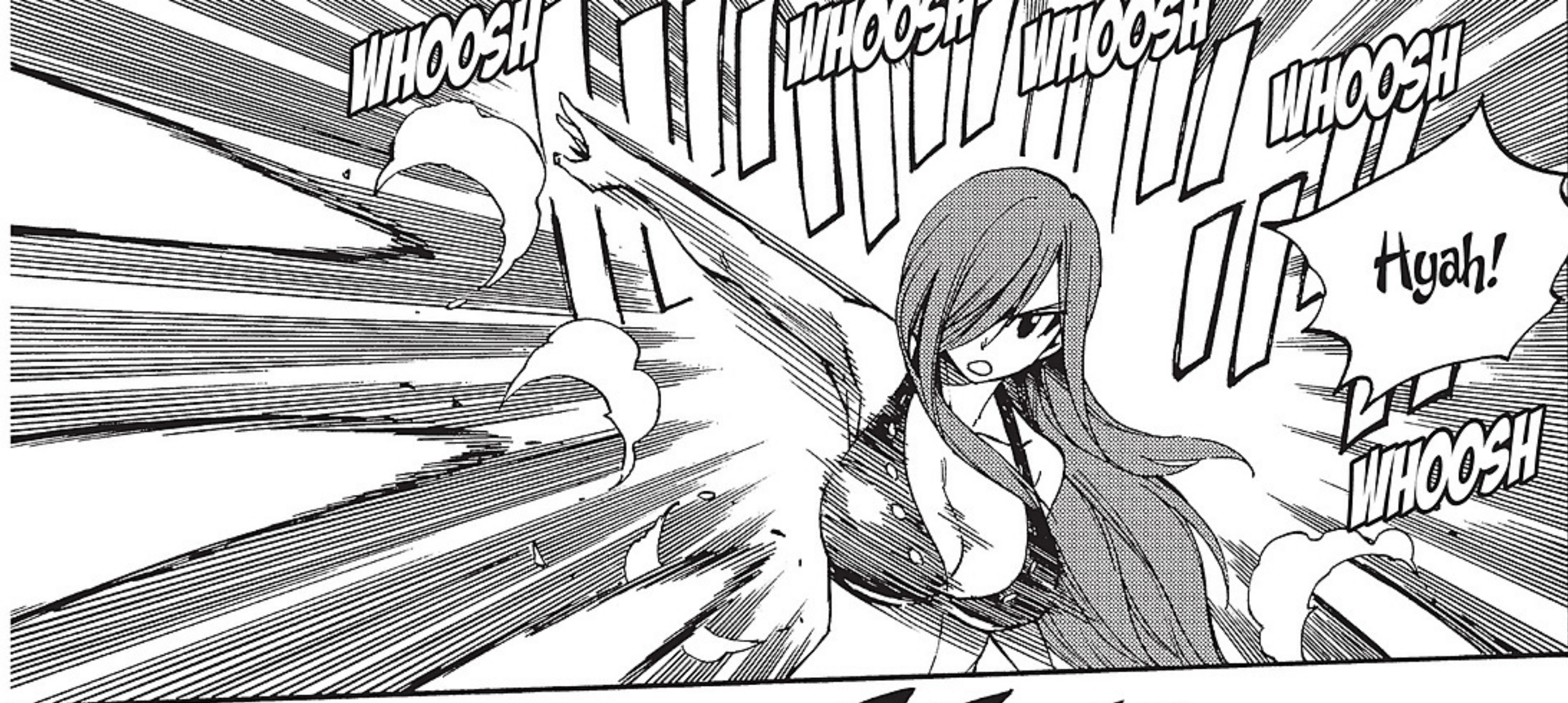


I hope you
remembered
your
souvenirs!

Because
the trip six
feet under is
faster than
you'd think.







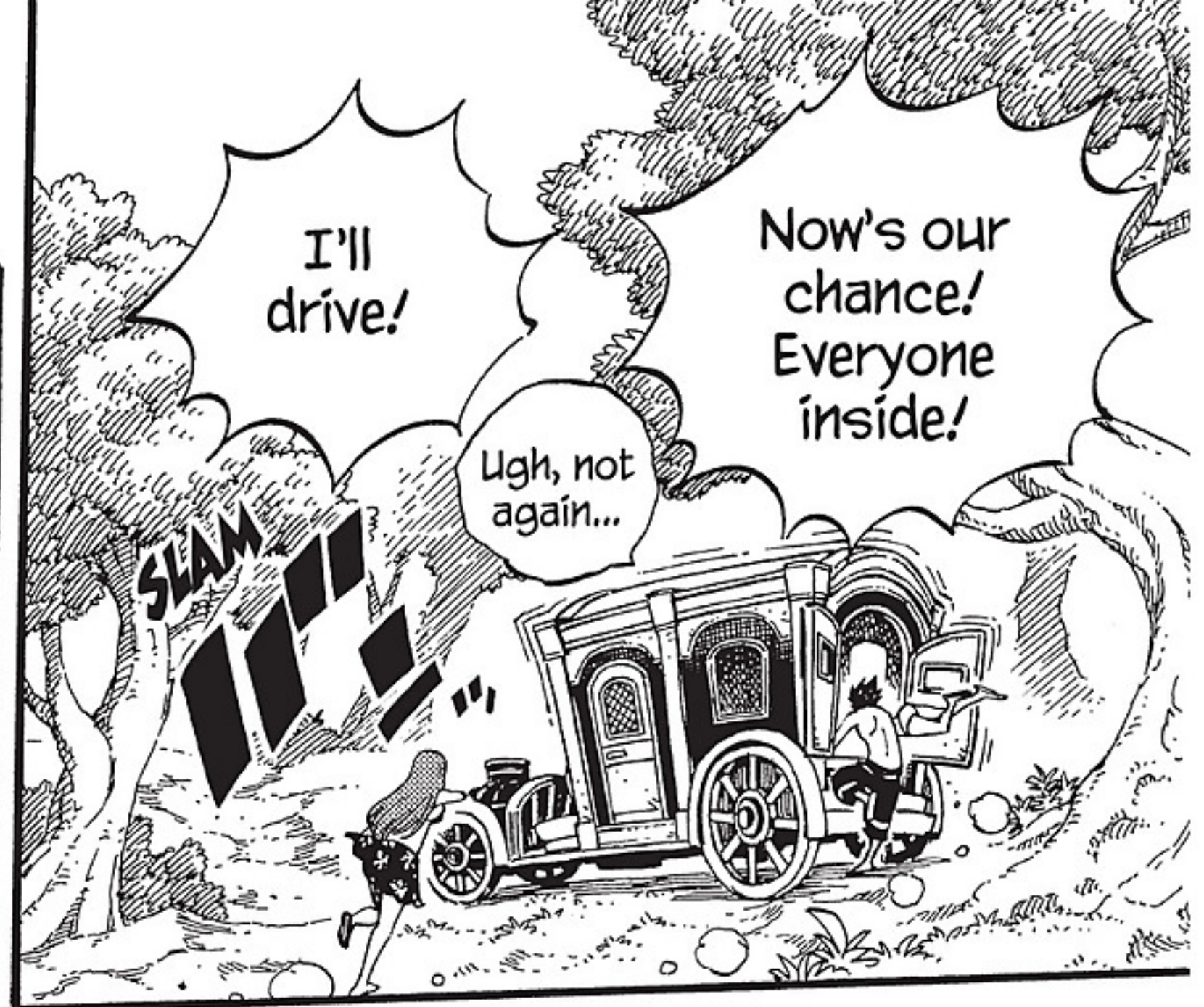


Let's go!!!



S.E. plug, set!

CHANK

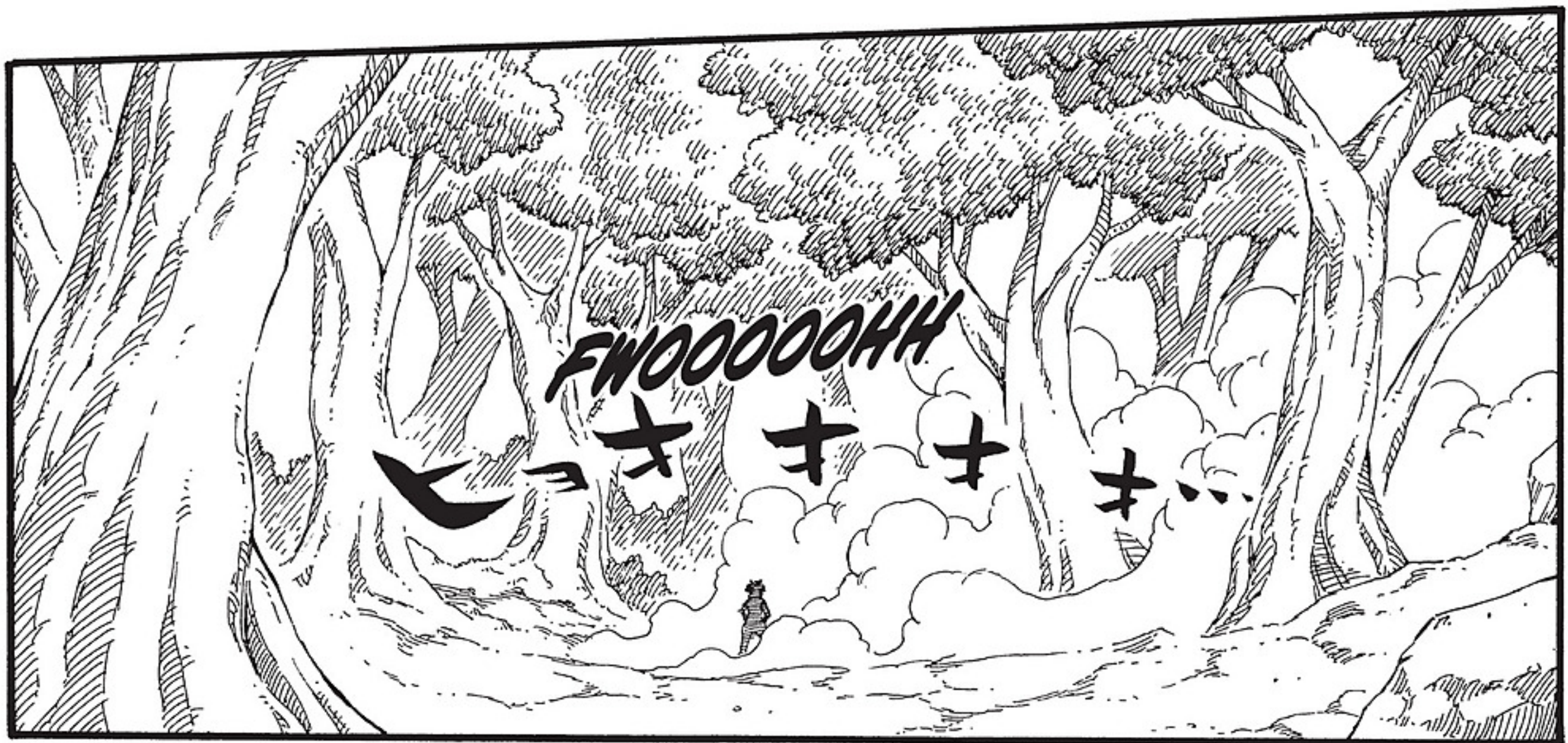


I'll drive!

Now's our chance!
Everyone inside!

Ugh, not again...

SLAM



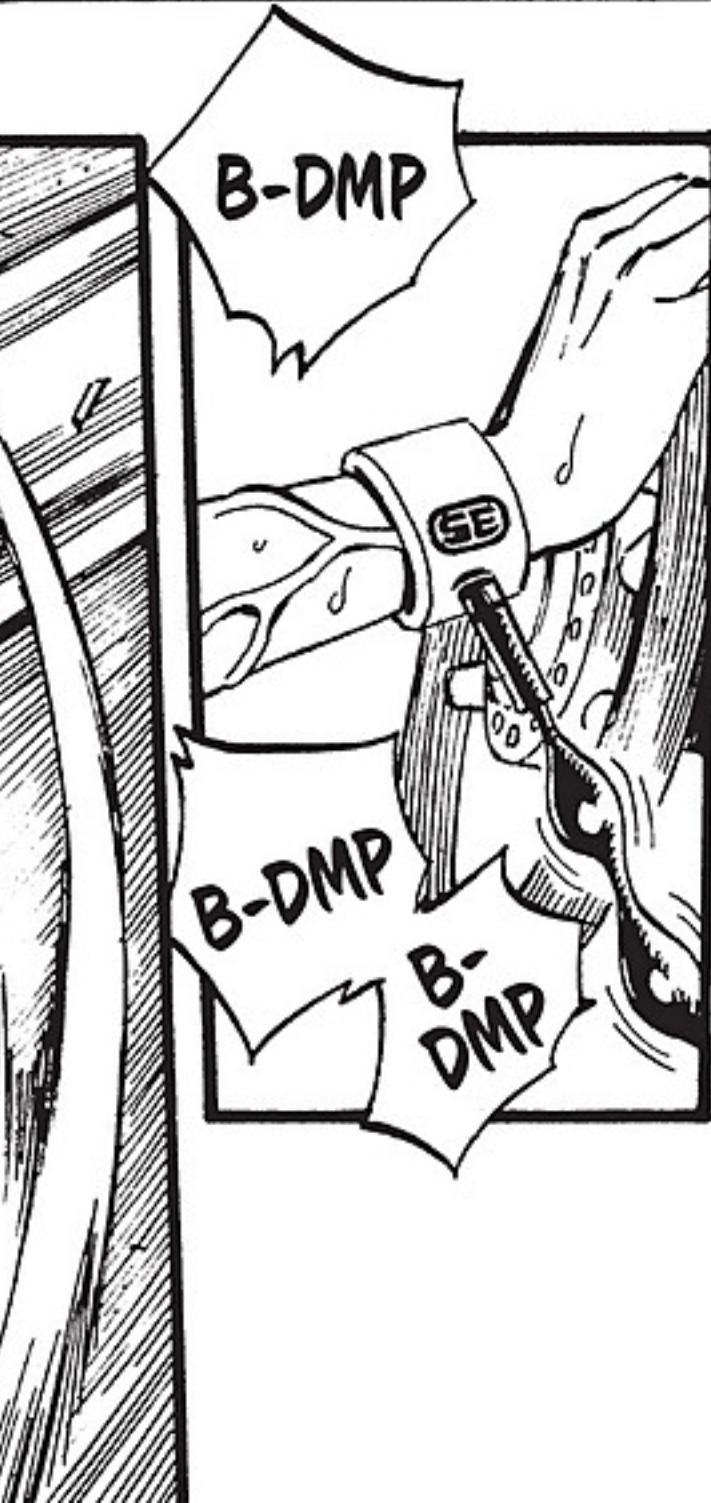
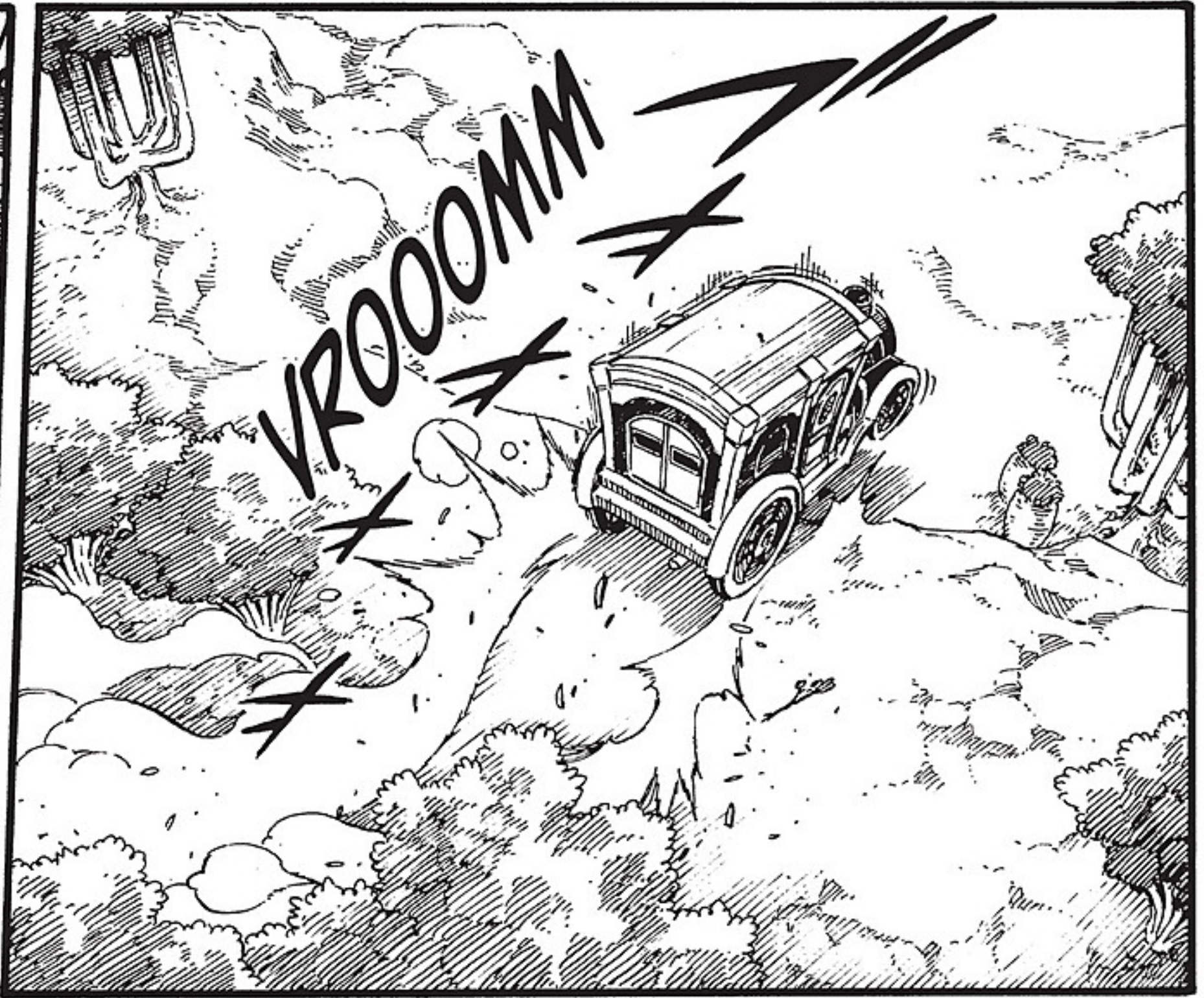
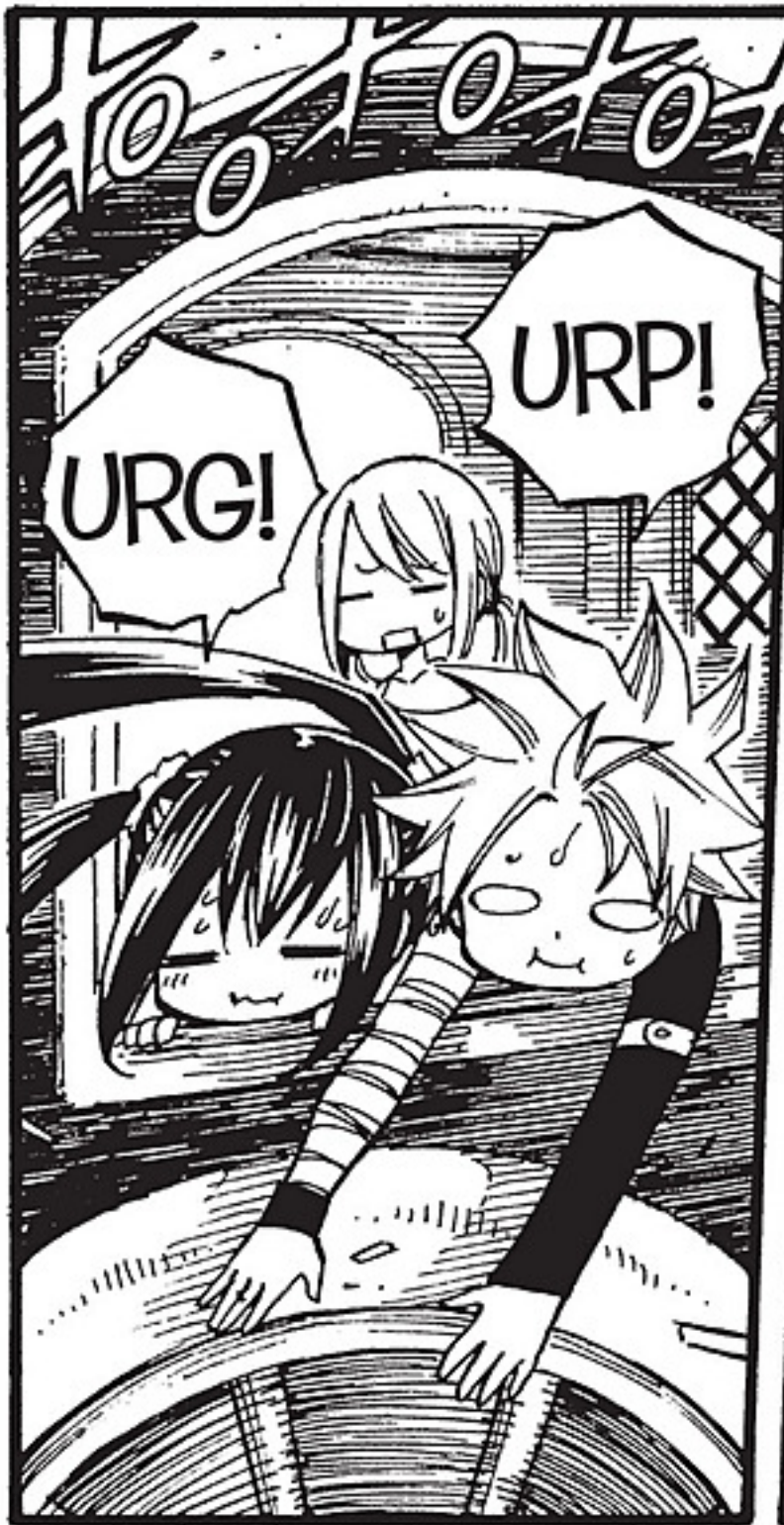
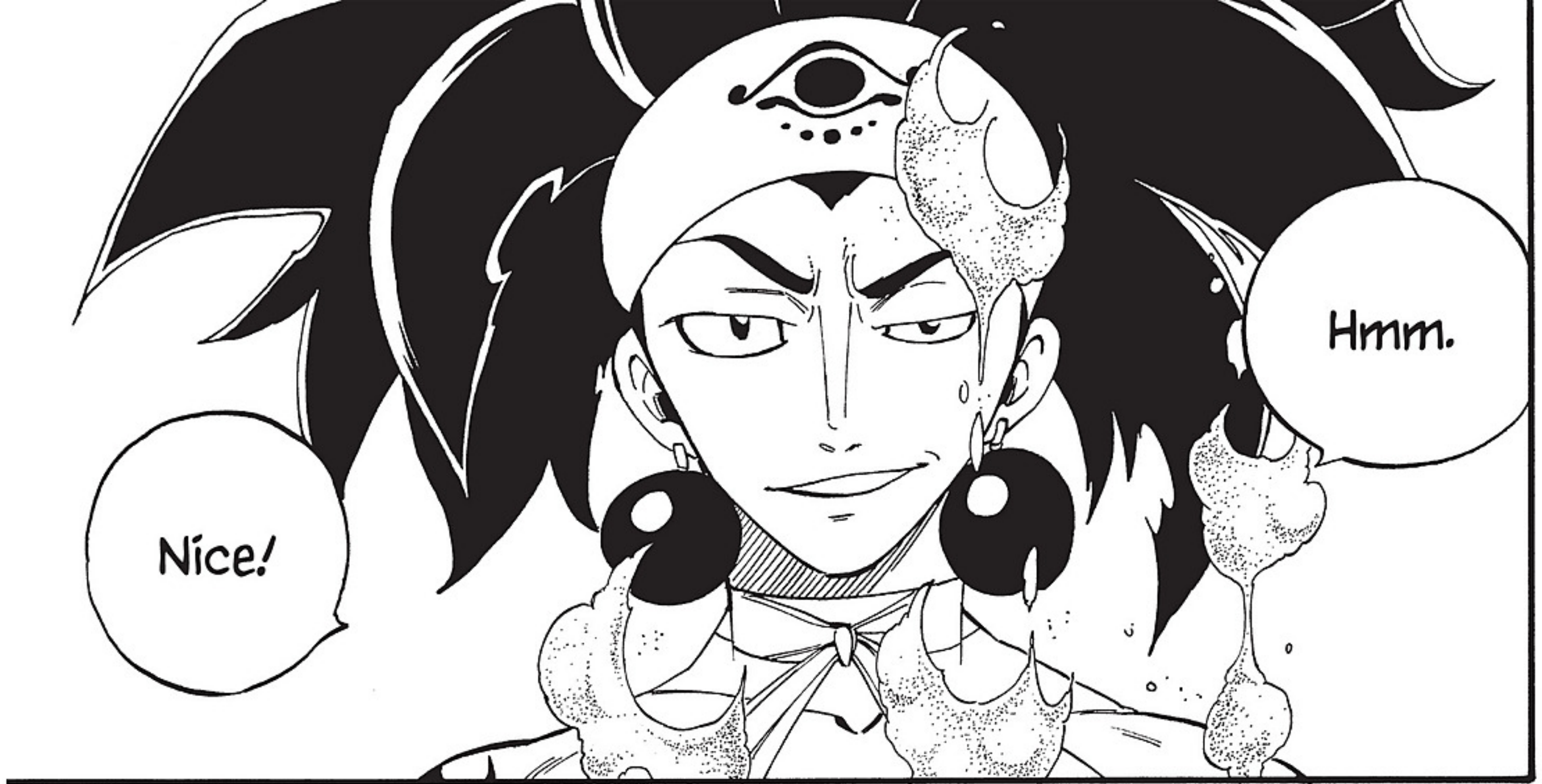
FWOOOOOHH

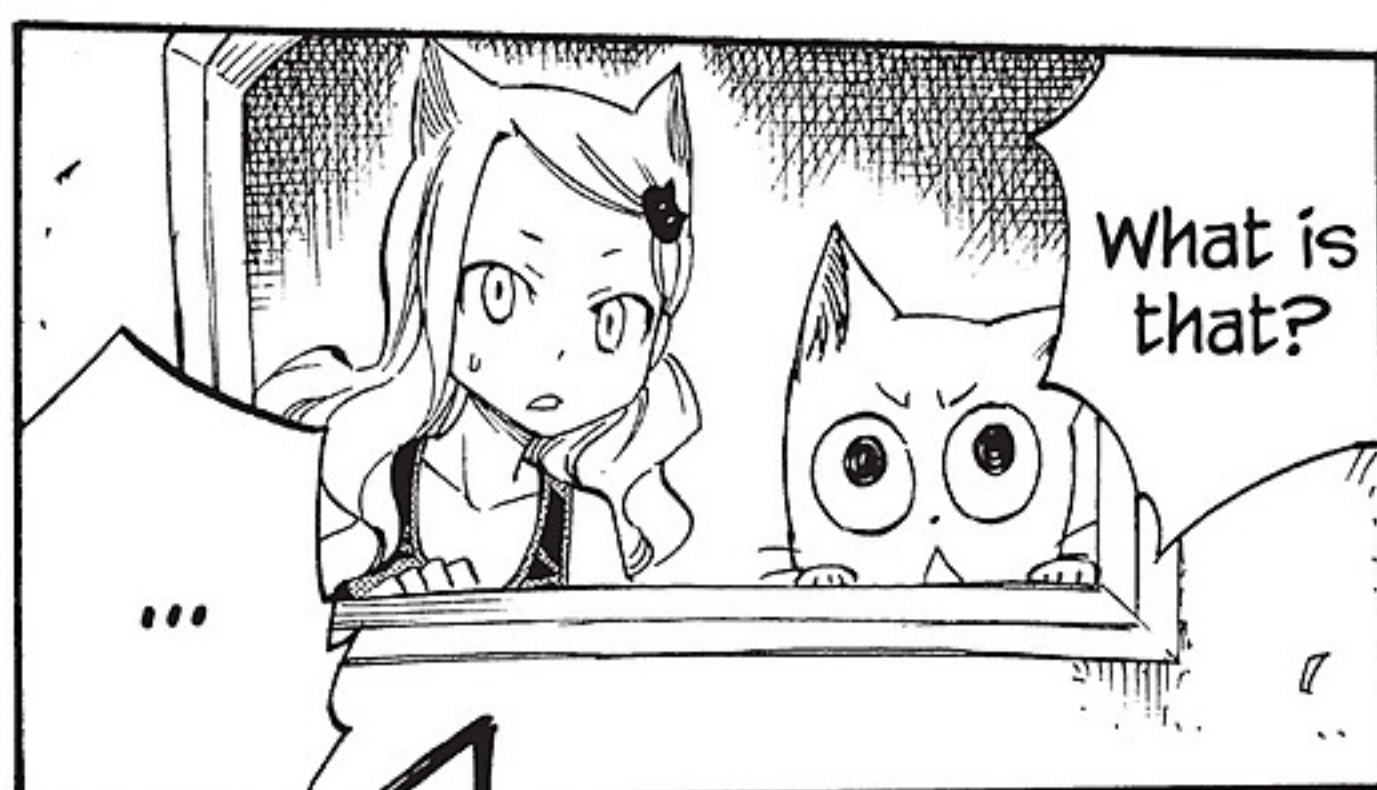


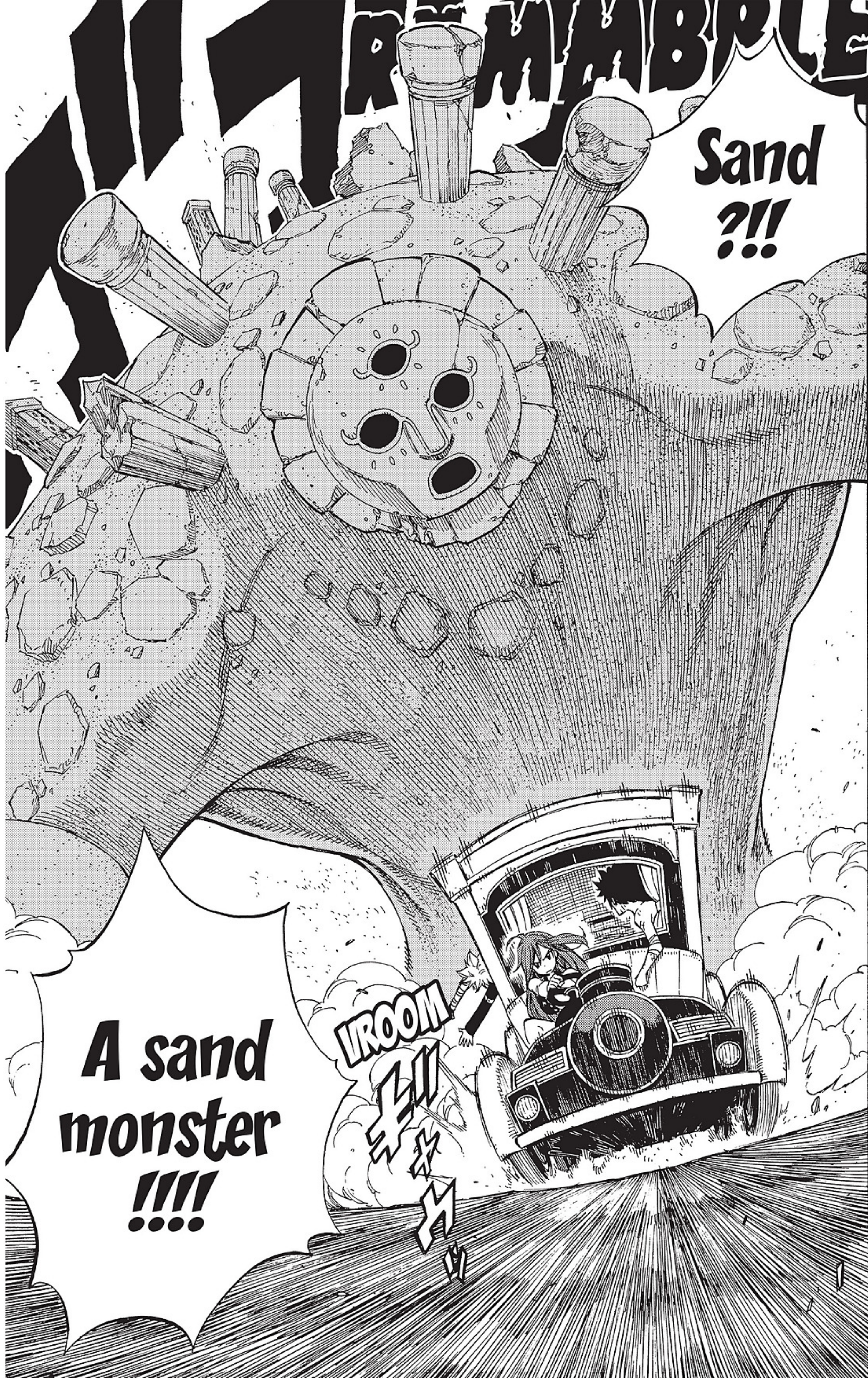
SHIFF



So,
those are
Makarov's
troops?







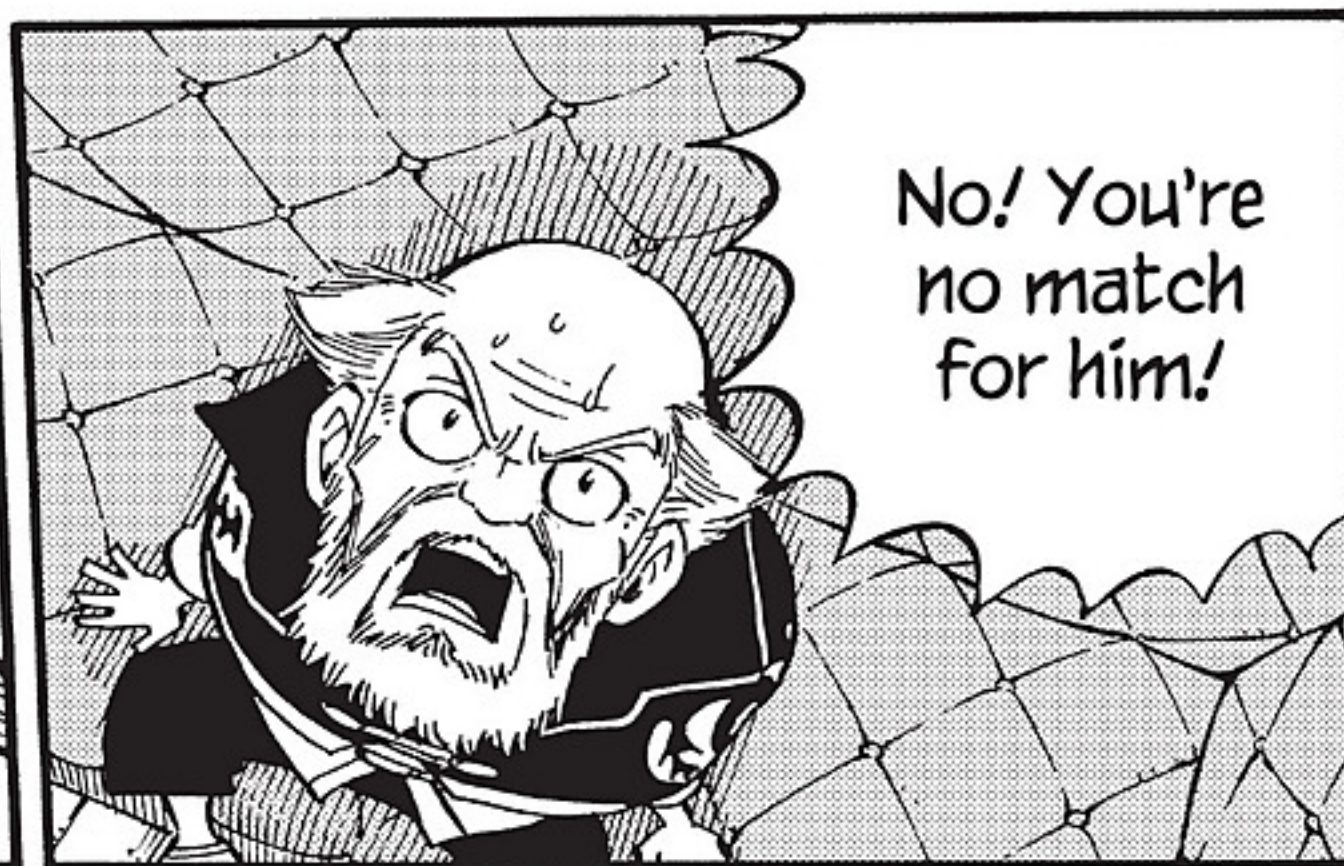
REMEMBER

**Sand
?!!**

**A sand
monster
!!!!**

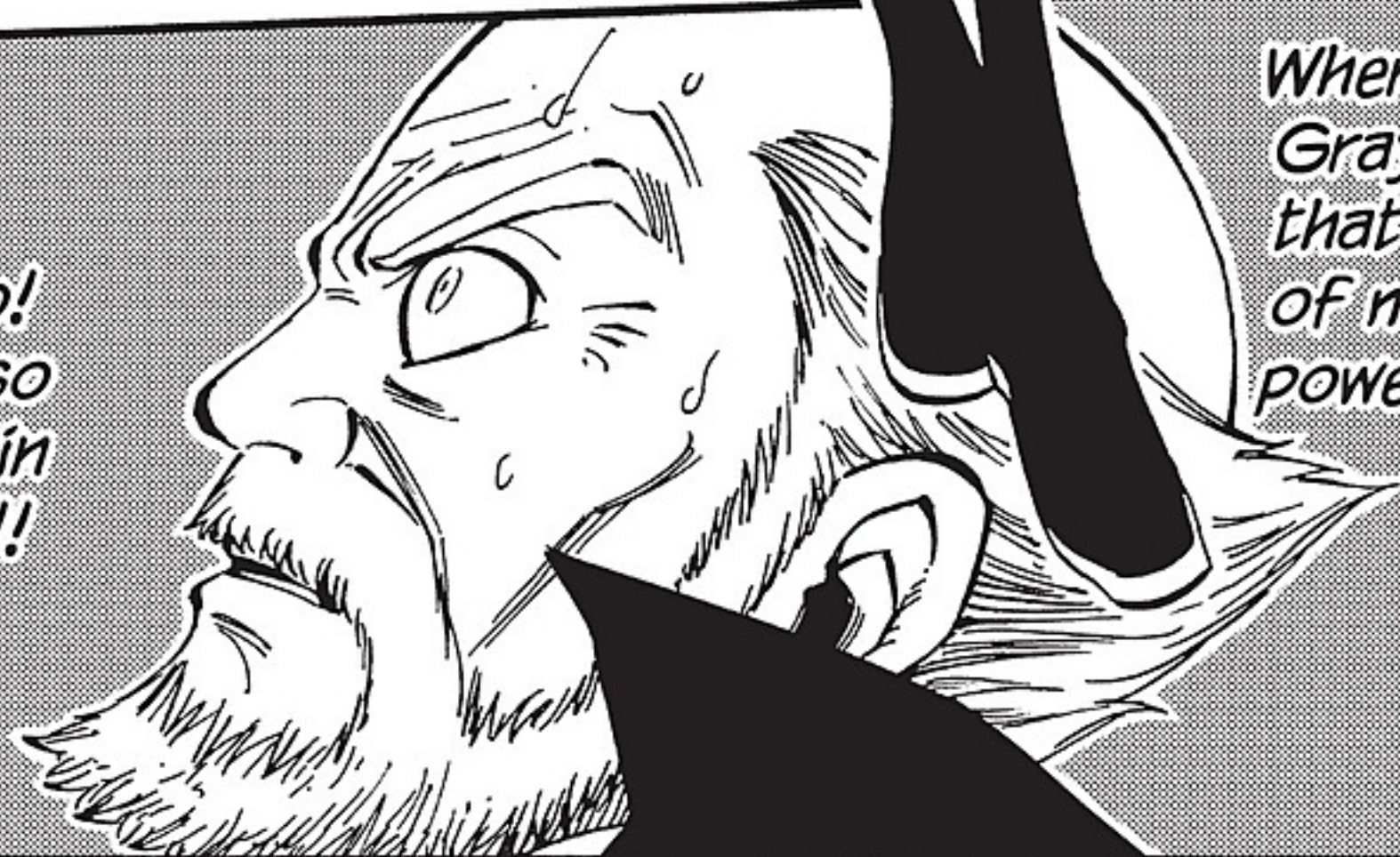
vrooom

**!!
!!
!!**

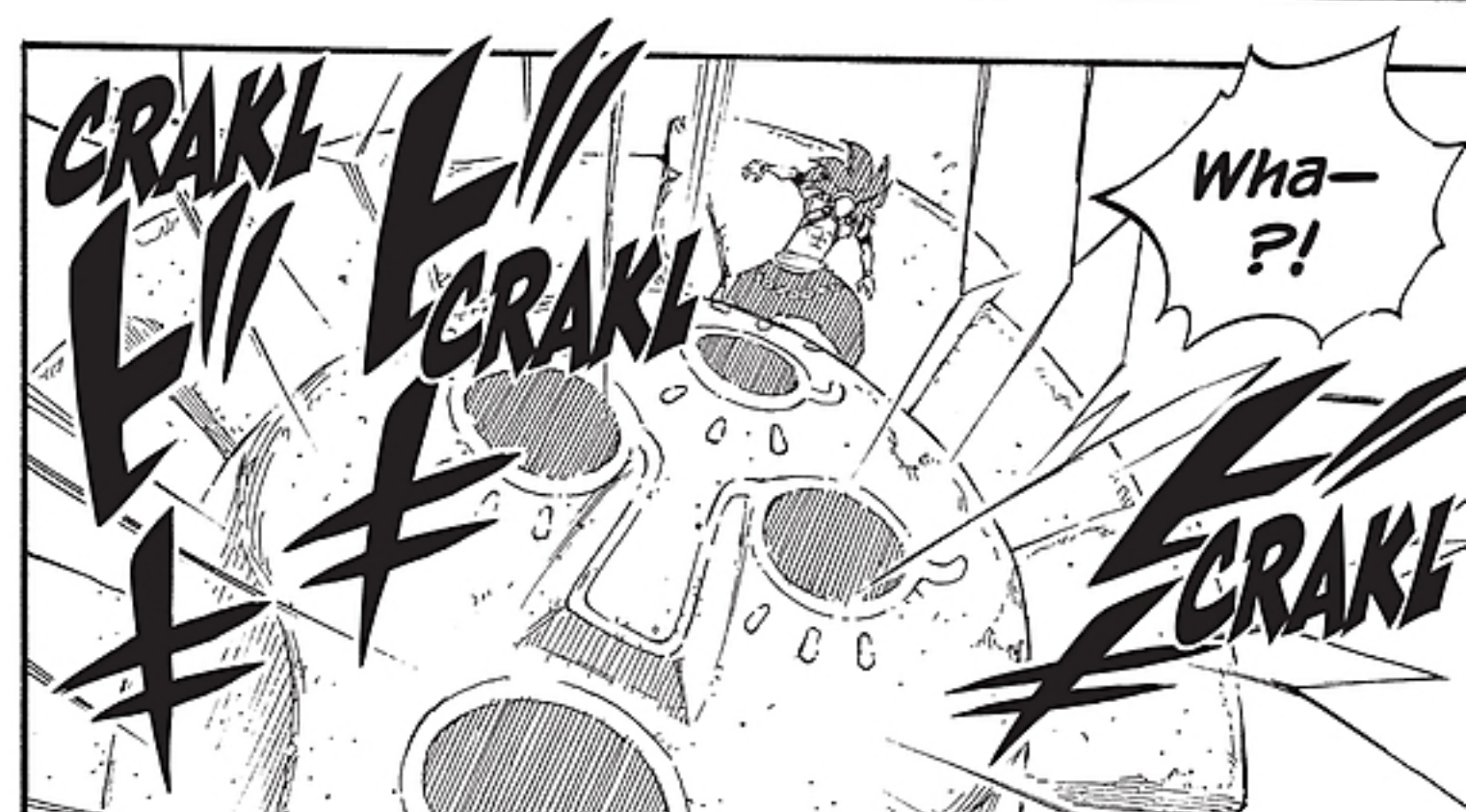
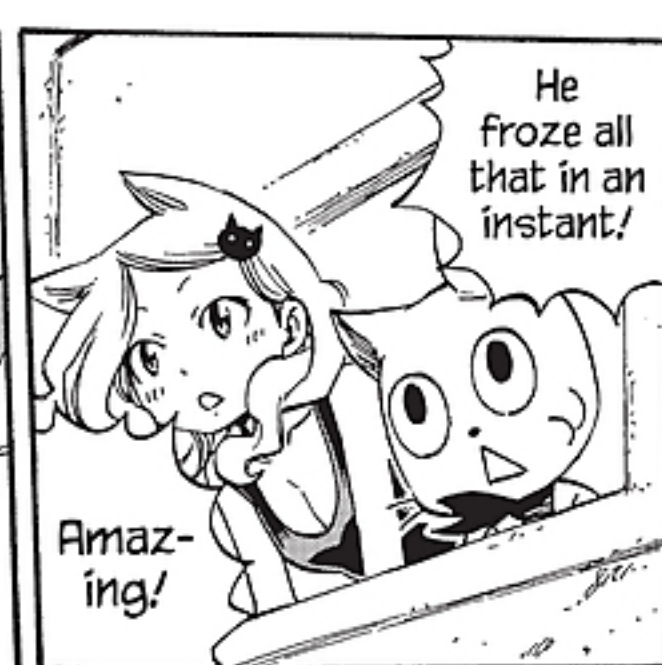
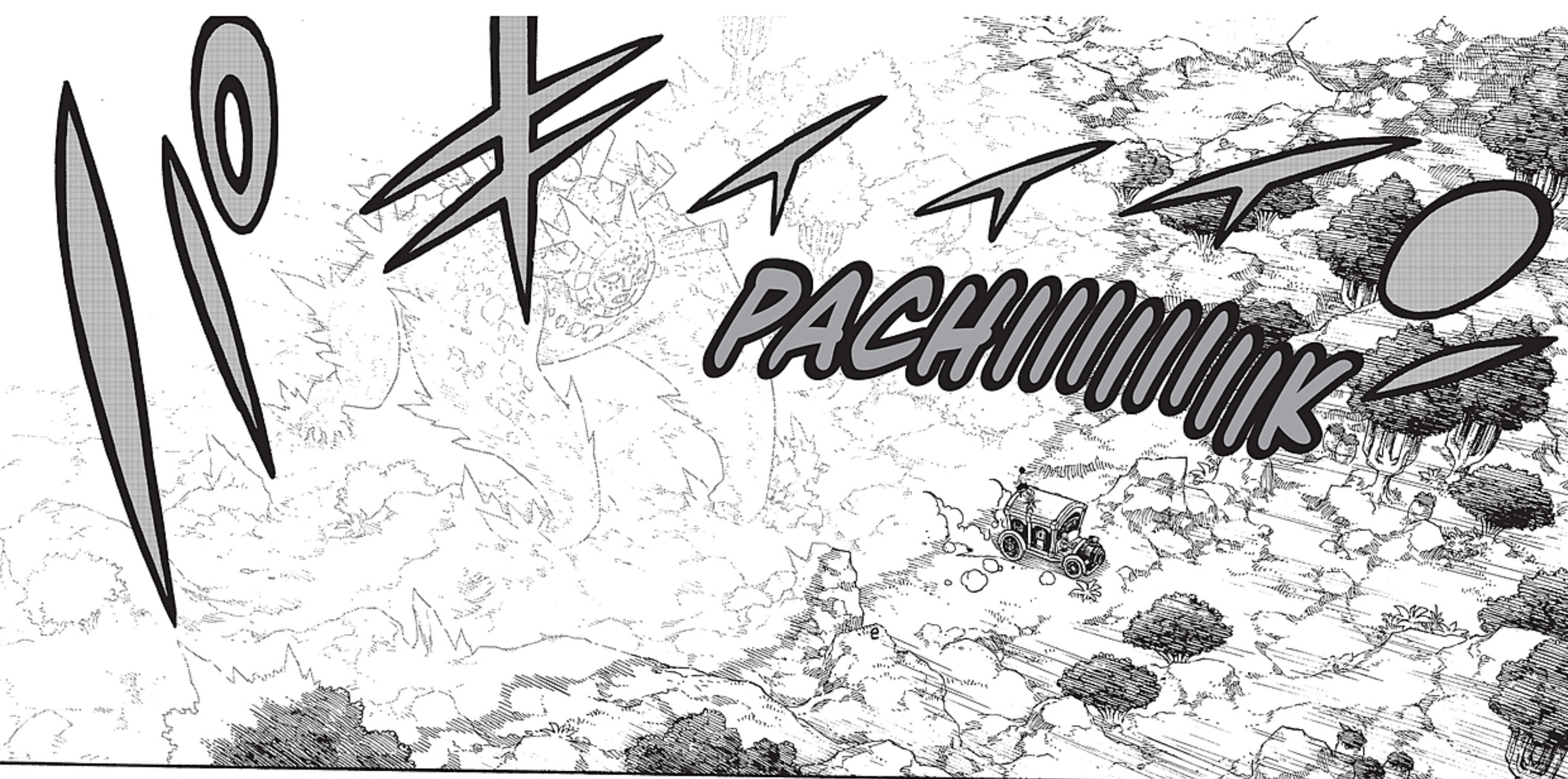


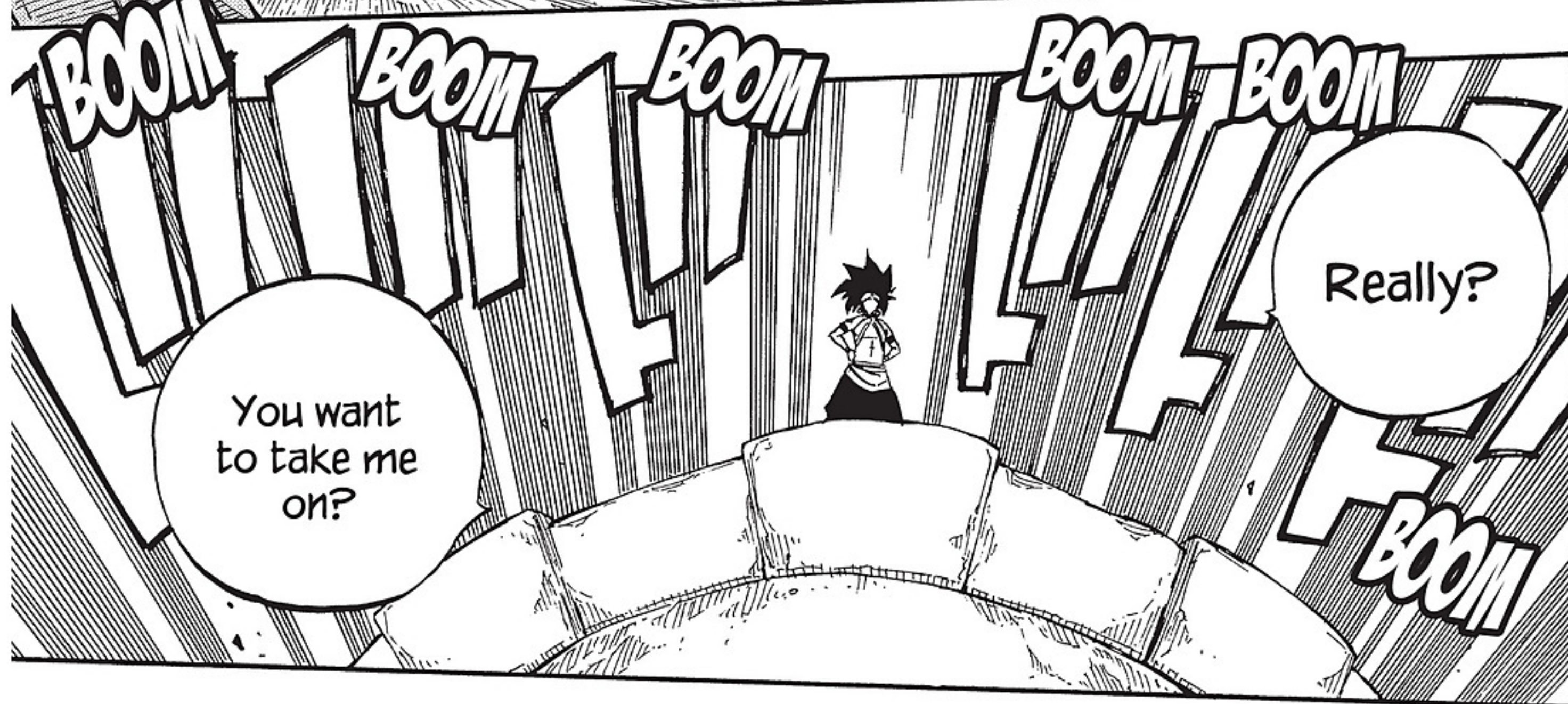
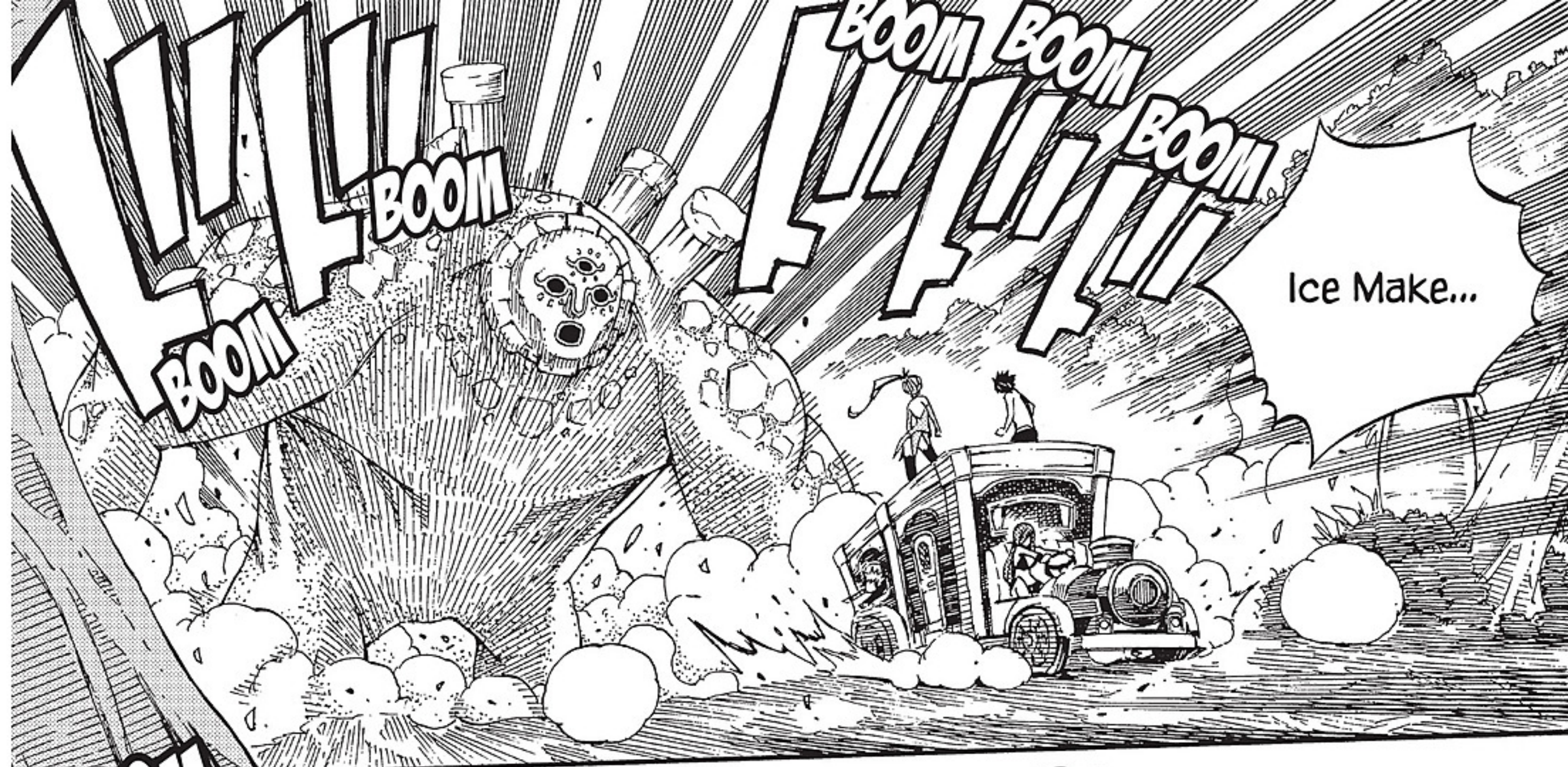


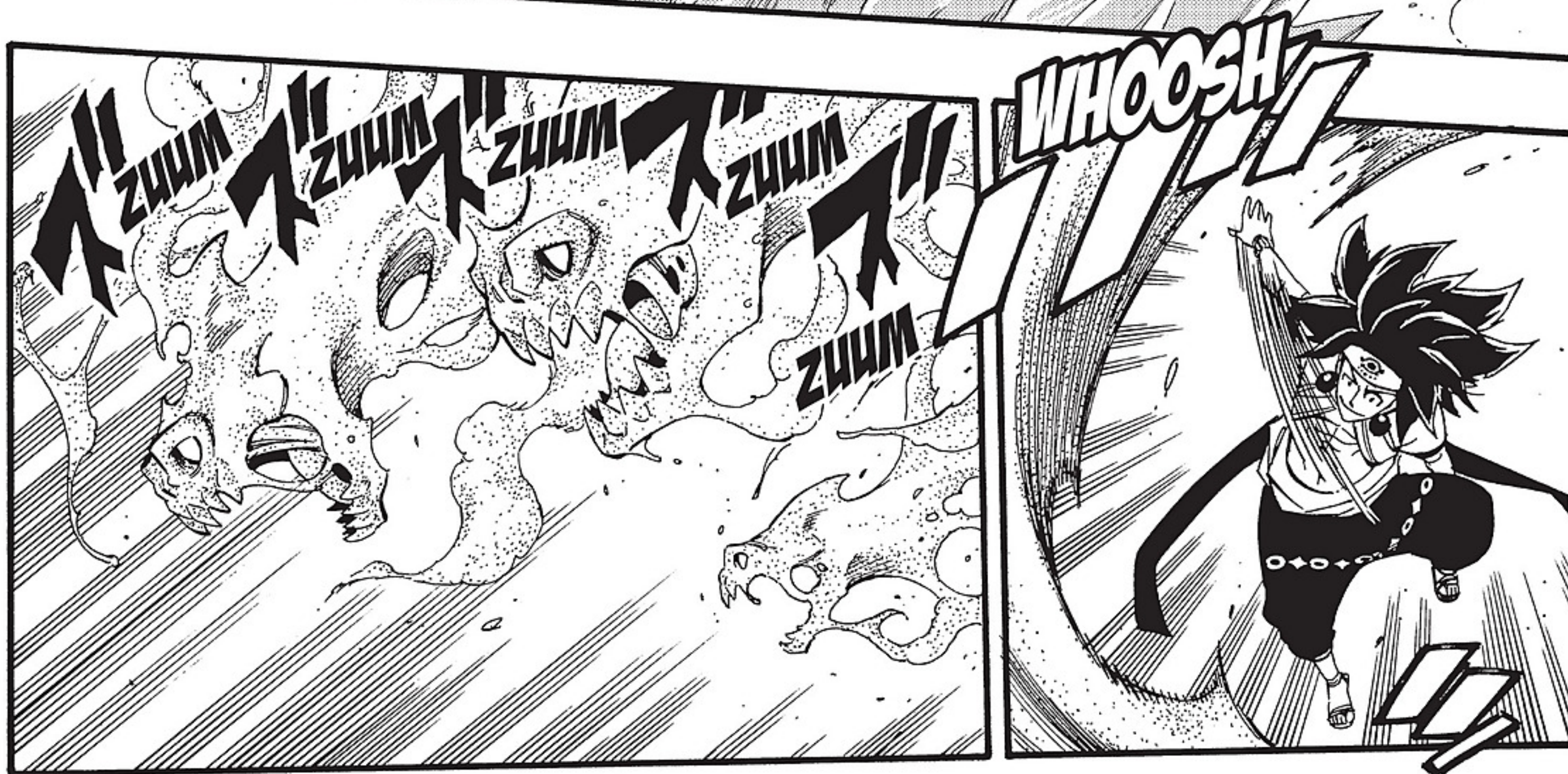
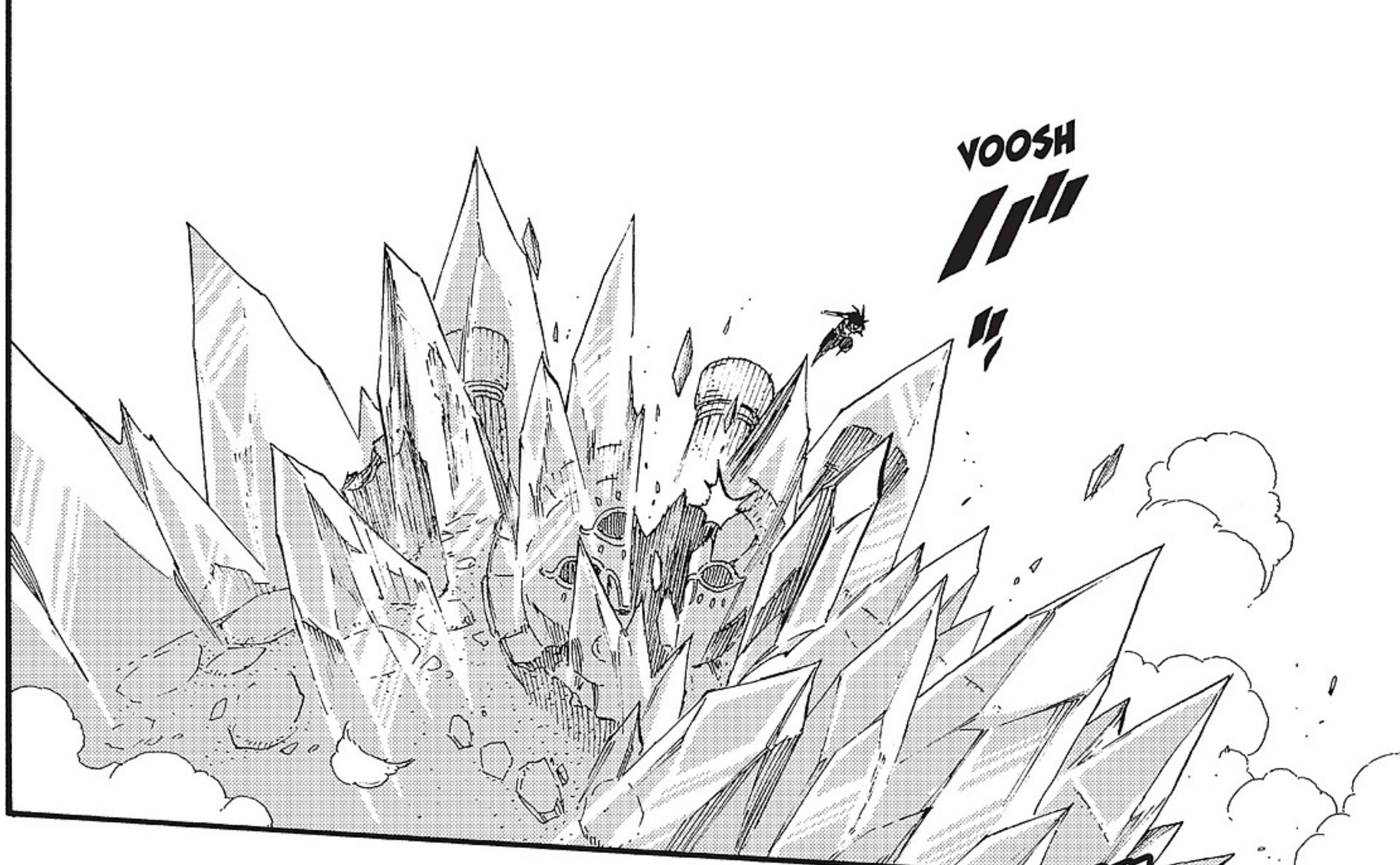
*Wait... Lucy, too!
They've gotten so
much stronger in
just one year!!!!*

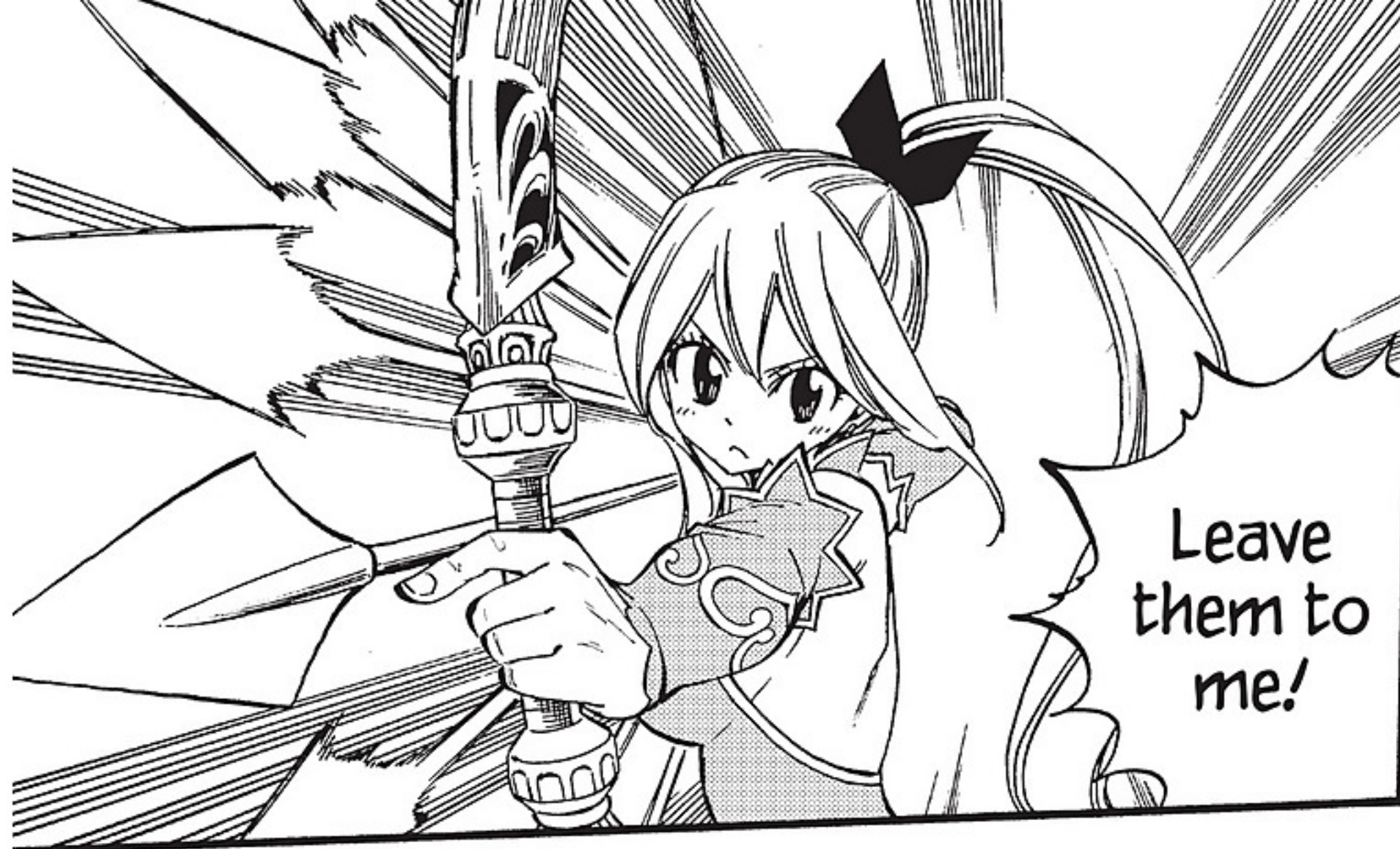


*Where did
Gray get
that kind
of magic
power...?!*









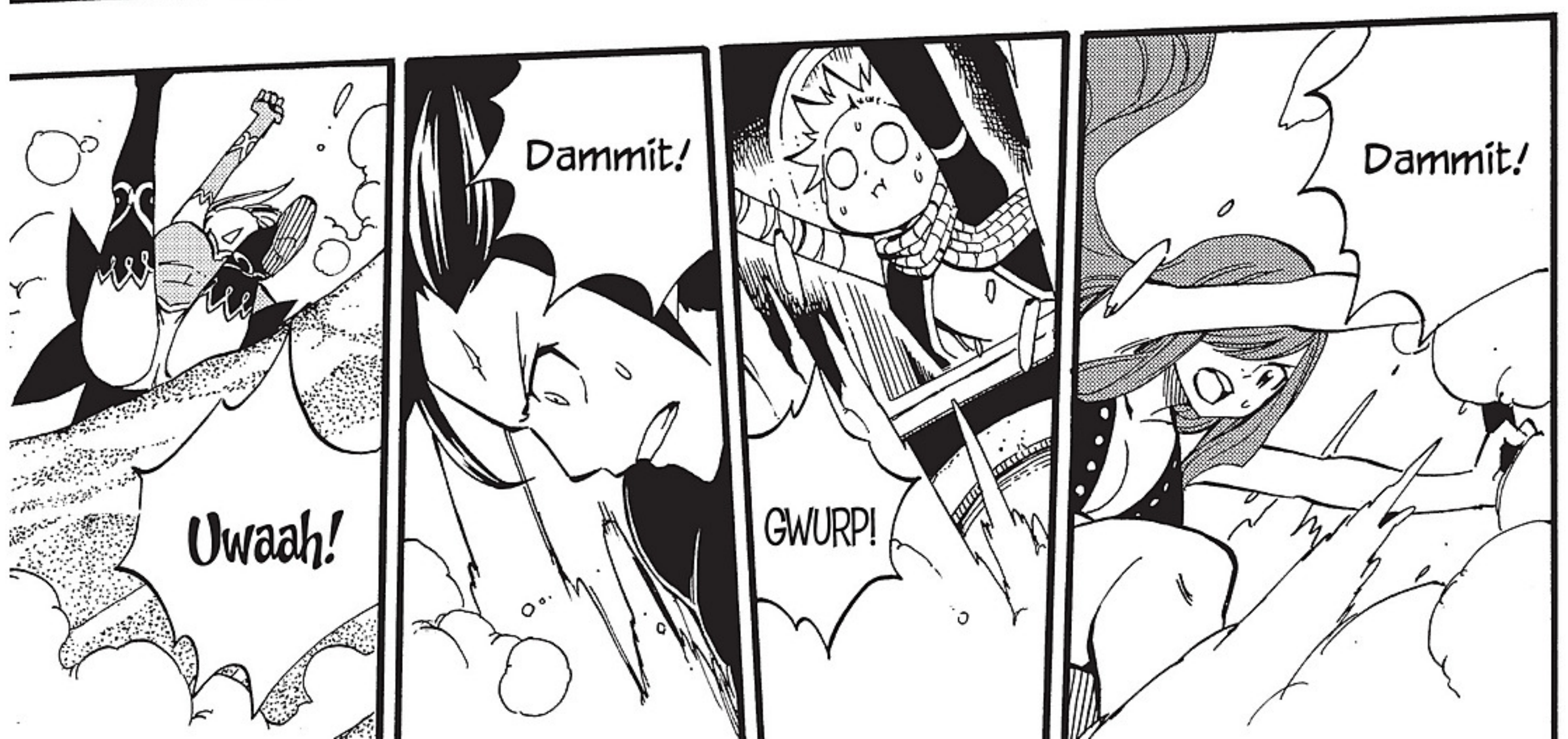
Leave
them to
me!

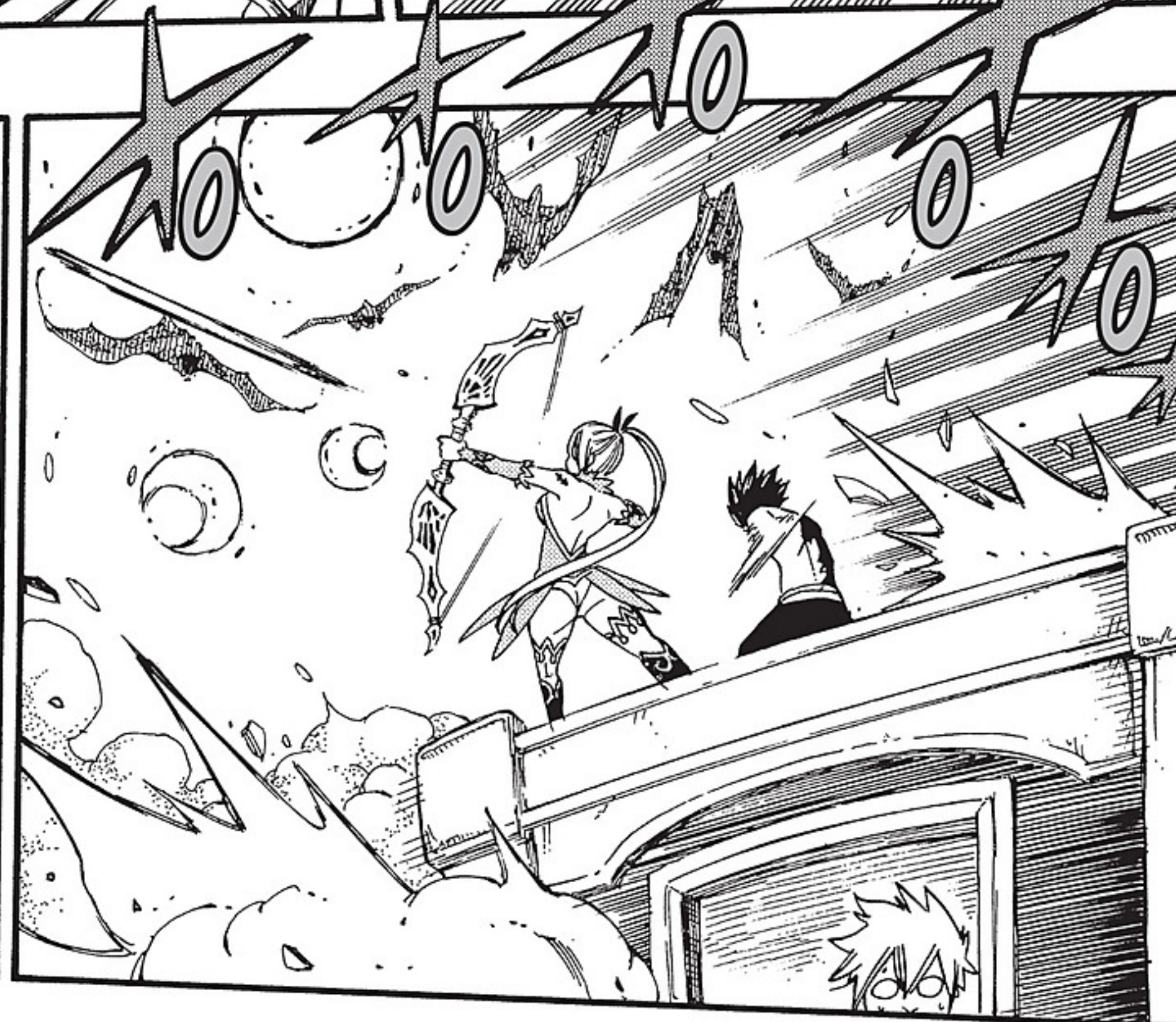


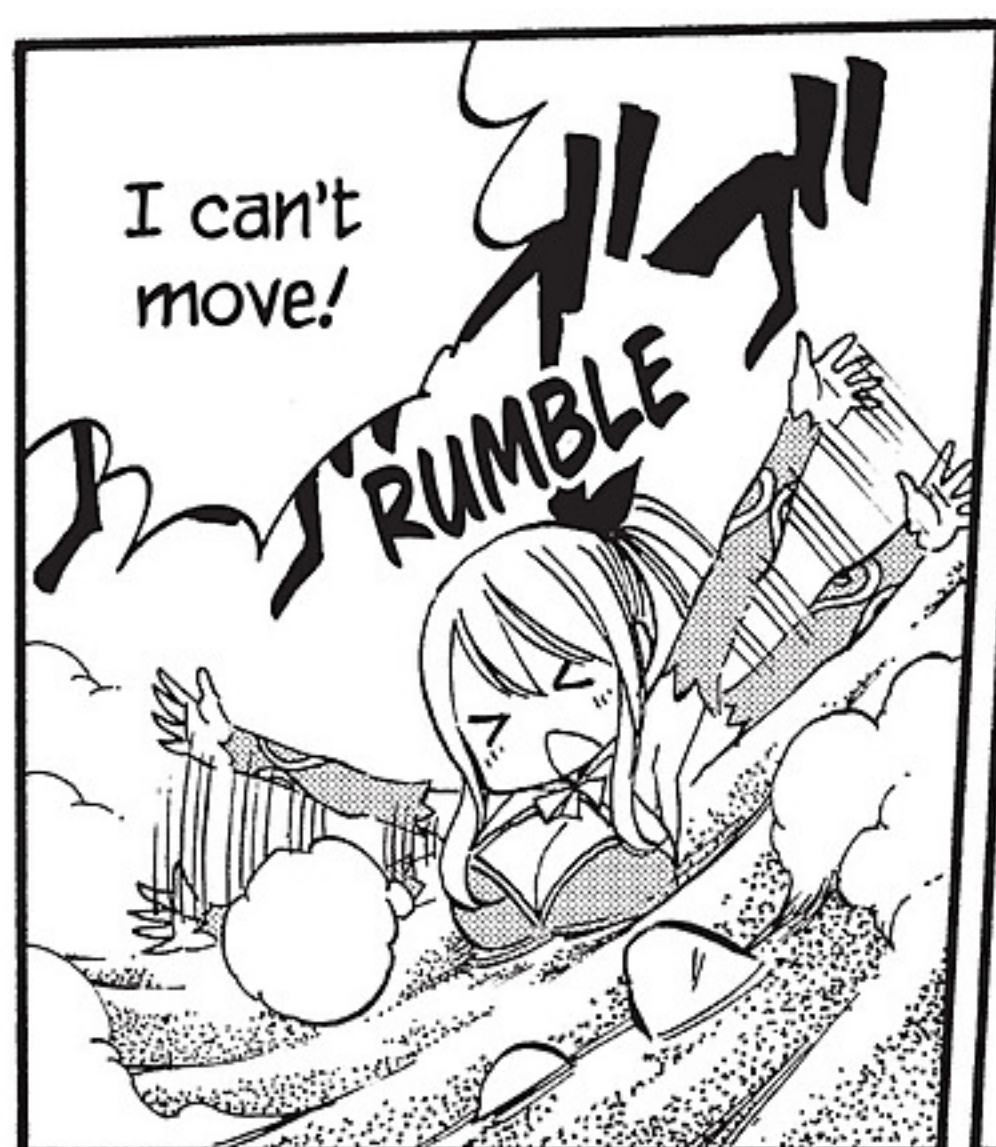
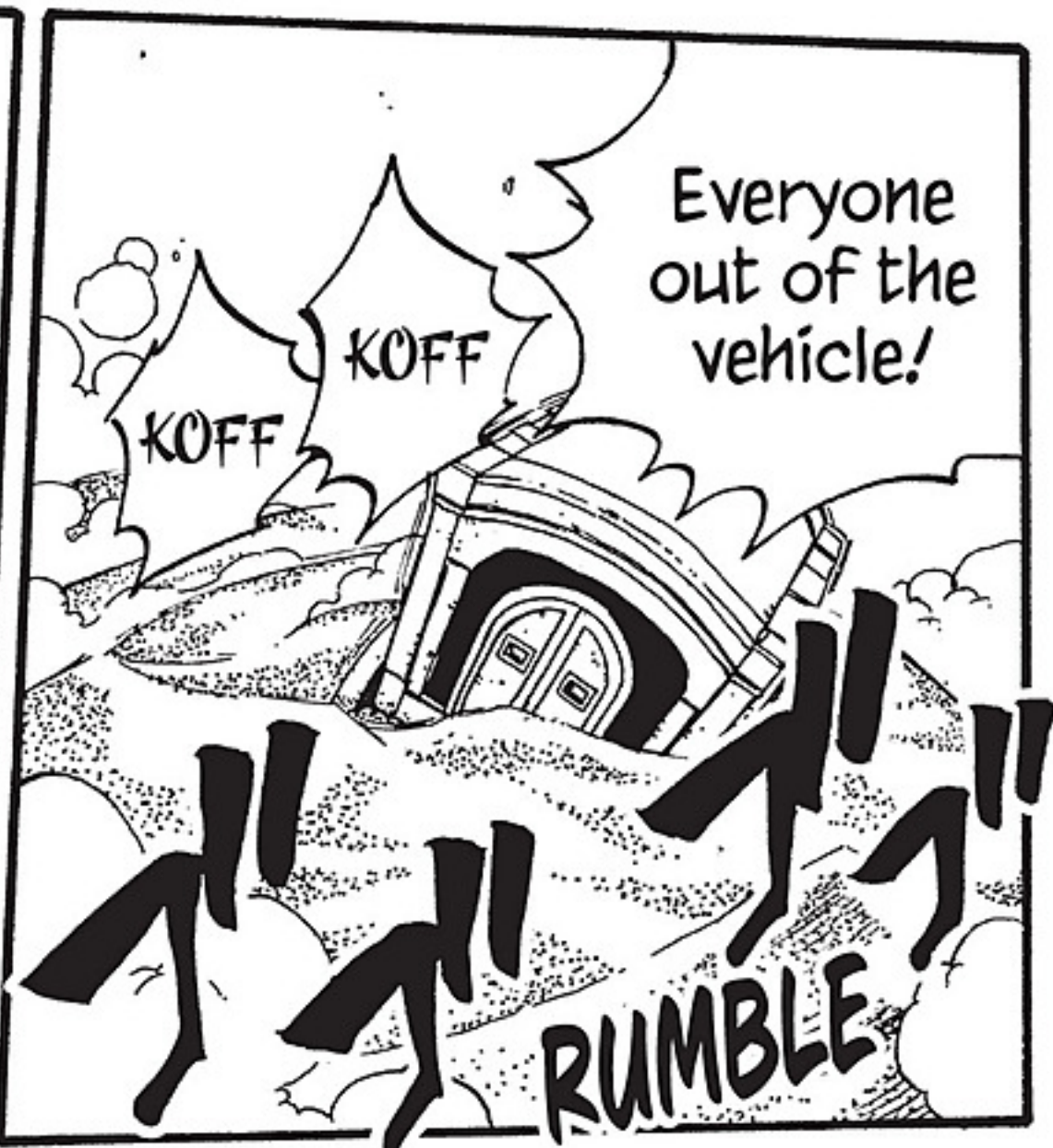
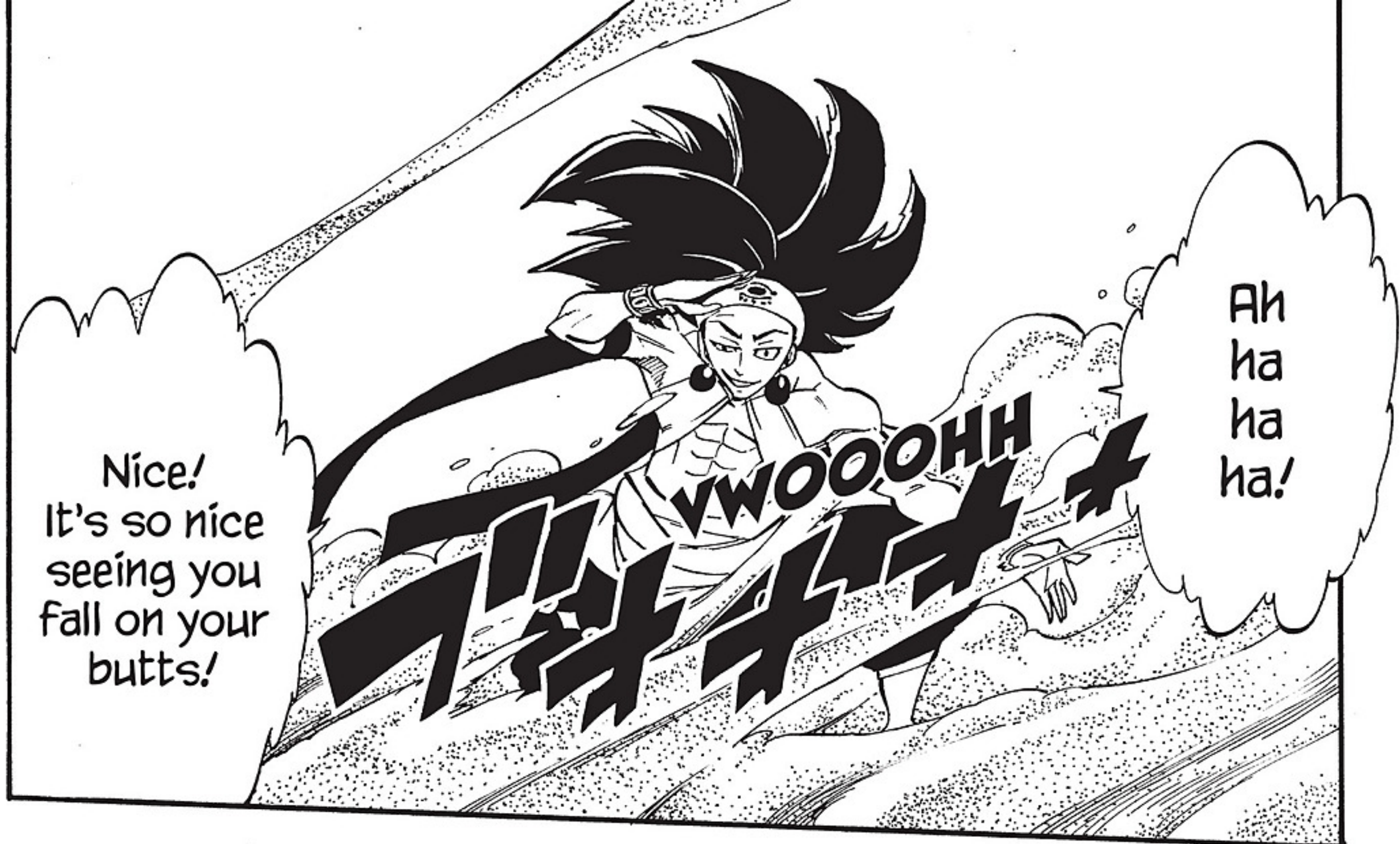
The sand
turned
into mon-
sters!

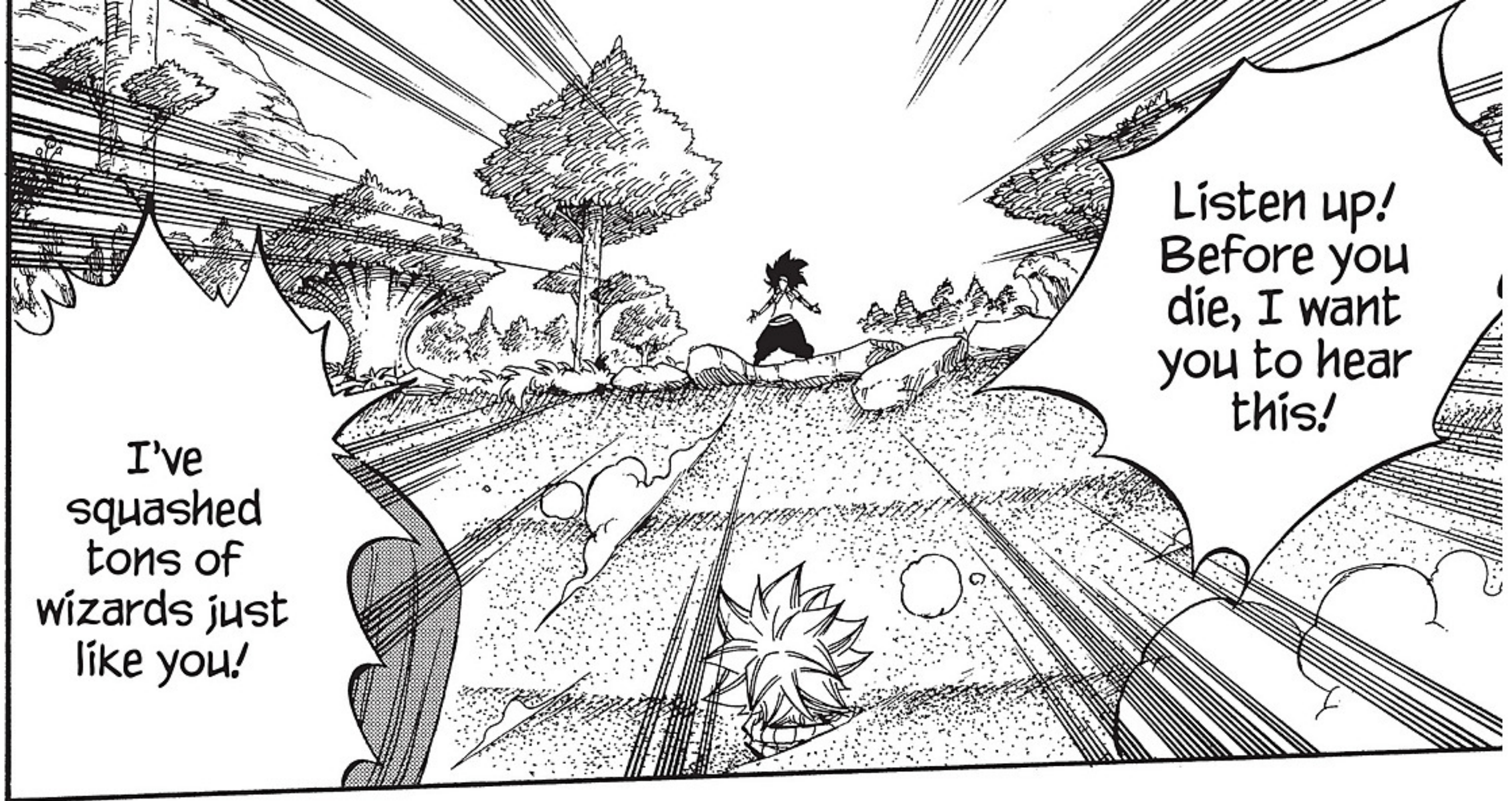


**STAR
SHOT
!!!!**



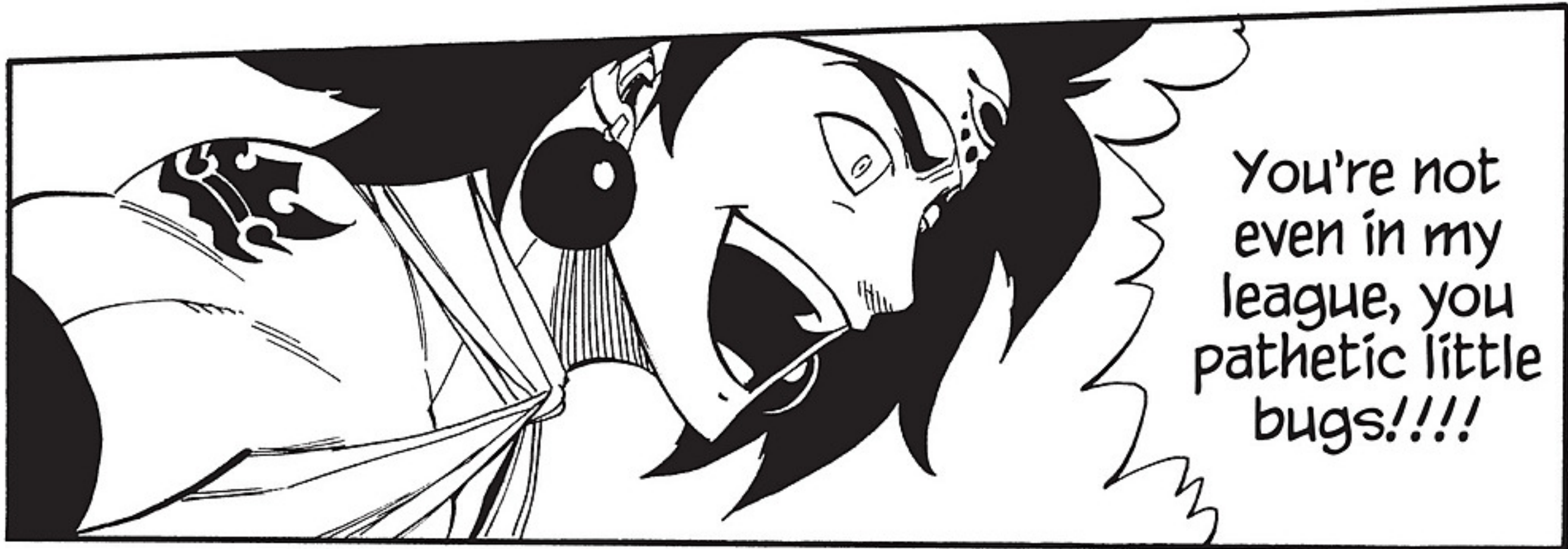






I've
squashed
tons of
wizards just
like you!

Listen up!
Before you
die, I want
you to hear
this!



You're not
even in my
league, you
pathetic little
bugs!!!!



Nice! Nice!!
I love those
expressions!



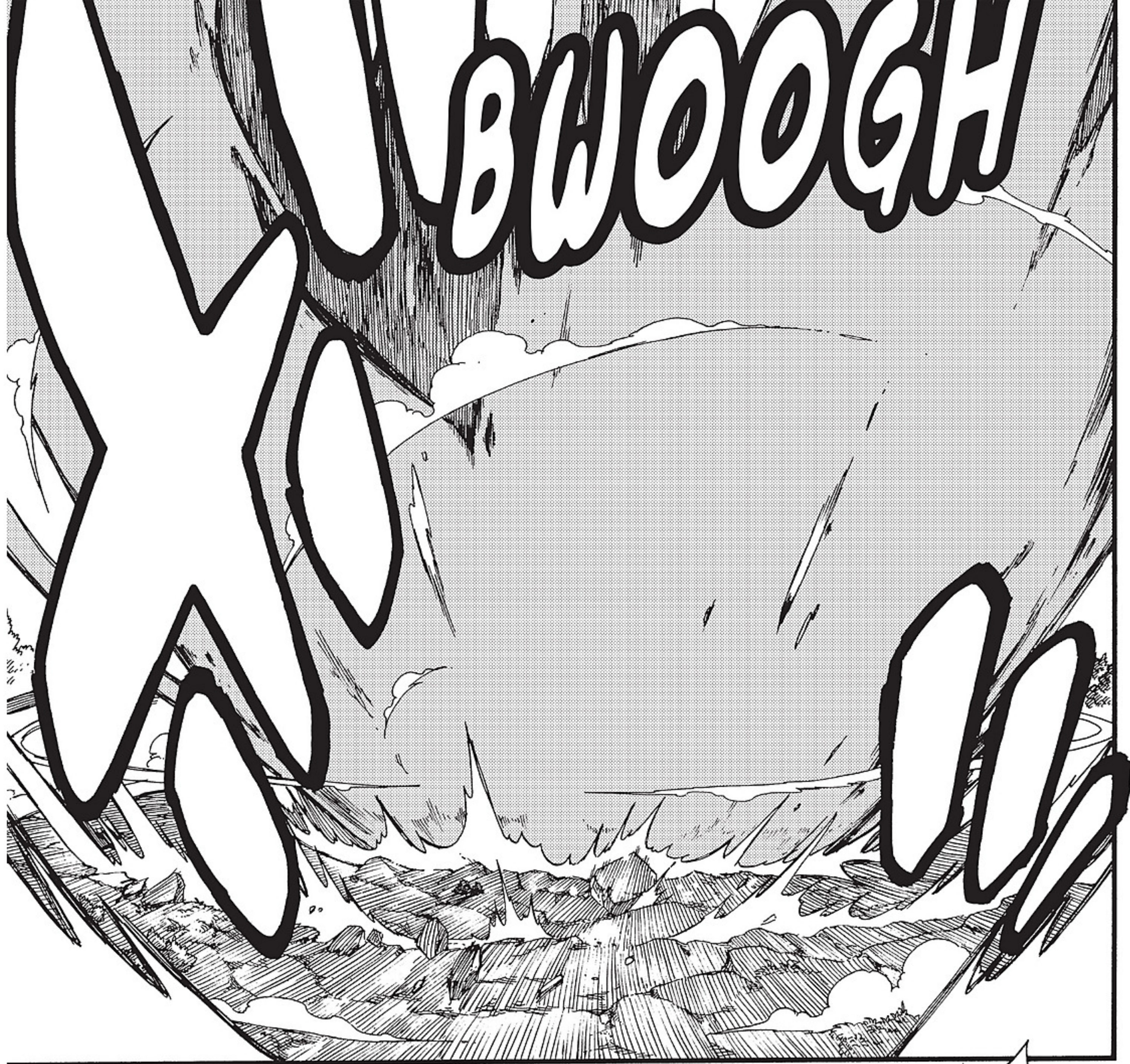
I bet you
just *hate*
that, huh?!
Ah ha ha ha!!



But it's
gonna
come under
Albareth's
control
soon!



Even the
gods have
abandoned
the land of
Ishgal!



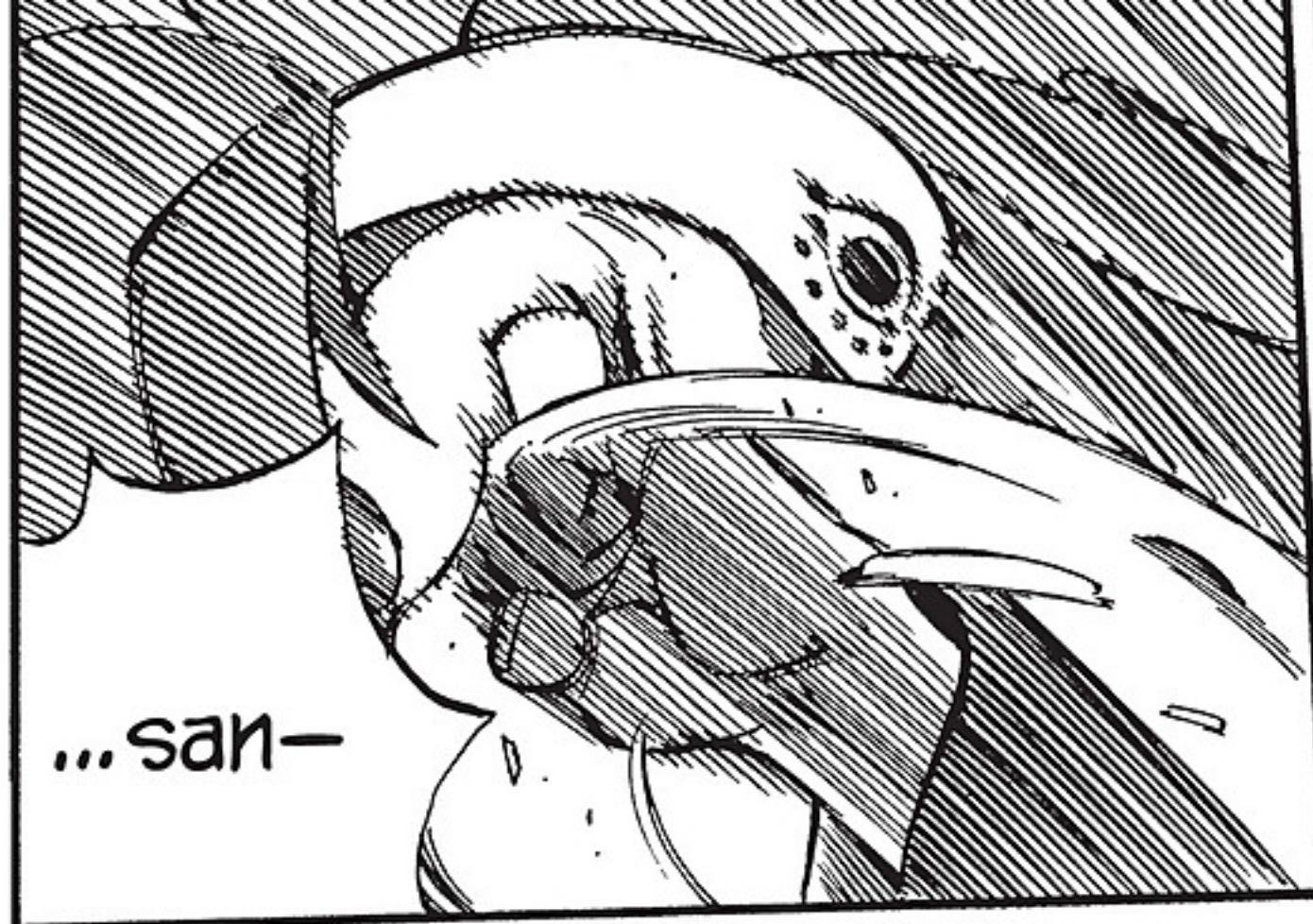
Okay.
That's
cool.

SHING

It's been
abandoned by
the gods?



Because
it's still
got Fairy
Tail!!!



TO BE CONTINUED

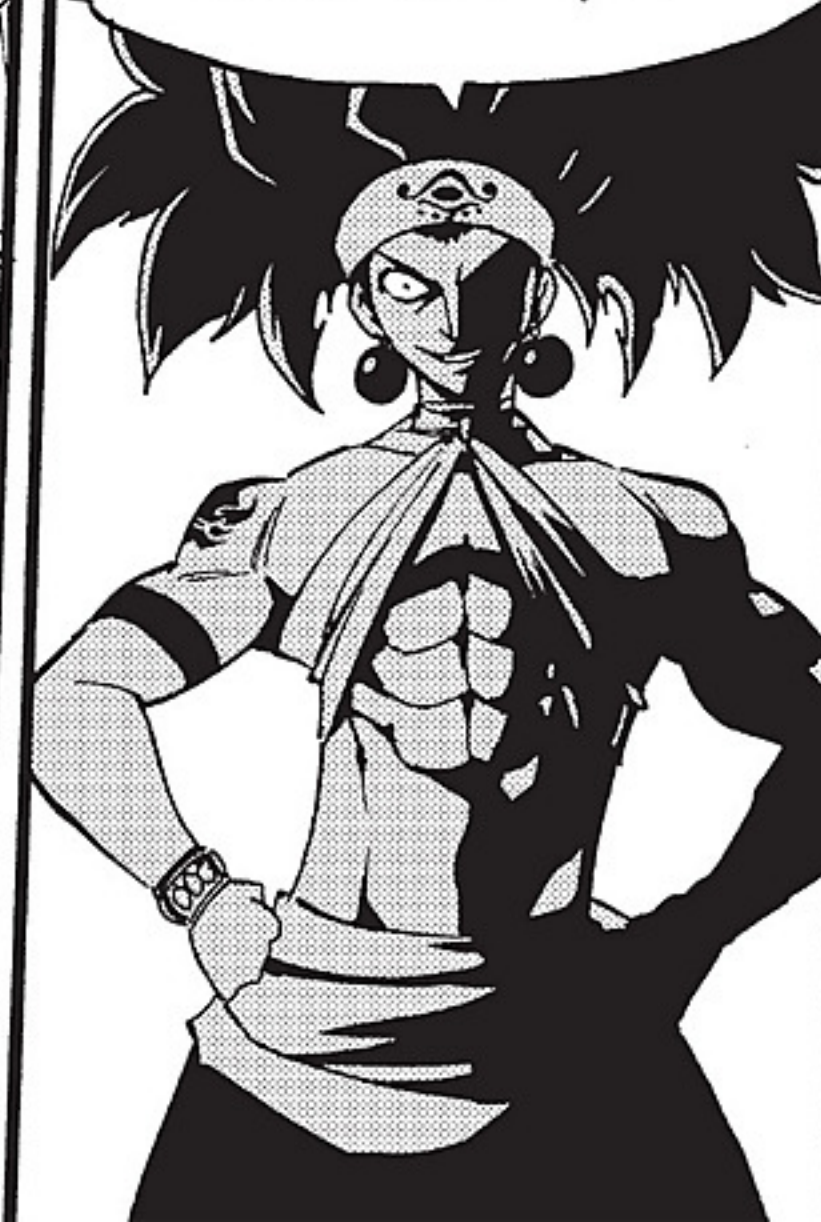


The Ant's
Hell is a
portal to
the end.

No one
has ever
escaped
it.



How many people
has it killed? How
many towns has it
swallowed up?!



あとがき

Afterword

Now we've broken into the Albareth Arc! This time, we're going to bring you battles with the toughest enemies we've ever seen. And maybe this will even lead to the final battle with Zeref! The enemy boss characters are also the 12 strongest characters in the history of this series!

And it's really tough to draw! Okay, we haven't seen everyone yet, but they're all so quirky! I figure one of the great pleasures of a battle manga is trying to guess who will take on who, right? And it'd make me really happy if you'd all start to imagine the possibilities!

Now, about the Spriggan 12—there was a fight over the number 12. My editor was of the opinion that five or six would do. And it's true, 12 is a lot of characters. It's hard to remember the names of all of them, and when each one has a battle, it makes you wonder just how long this arc will go on. But there's a bit of a secret reason for it, so we finally decided on leaving it at 12.

We still haven't decided on every plot twist that we'll be facing yet, but the battles are going to be on fire! So everyone, fasten your seat belts and prepare for a great ride!!

EMERGENCY REQUEST! EXPLAIN THE MYSTERIES OF F.T.!

In a coffee shop in Magnolia...



Hi everybody! Long time no see!



Huh? You mean this column hasn't been canceled?

Lucy: No, we're fine. After all, this is a manga with a lot to complain about.

Mira: So, shall we get to the first question?

Was Minerva able to return to being human?



Lucy: You know, I was worried about that, too!

Mira: Well, after the battle, Porlyusica did everything she could to treat her and get her back to her original body, but...

Lucy: She *did* become a demon, didn't she?

Mira: But don't worry! You wouldn't know it just by looking at me, but I'm kind of a human-demon mix, too.



You know, you say some really scary things in a very calm voice.



And on to the next question!

The future Rogue said that it was Gray who killed Frosch... and he didn't. Which is good, but it brings up a new question: In the future that the future Rogue came from, why did Gray want to kill Frosch?



Lucy: ...

Mira: ...

Lucy: See! It's because the author does a lot on the fly that the situation becomes questionable.

Mira: I don't mean this as an excuse, but at the time, they had Rogue speaking vaguely on purpose...



Continued on the right-hand page.

Continued from the left-hand page.

Mira: ...because at the time, Frosch's killer wasn't actually set in stone.

Lucy: Whoa! Truth bomb!

Mira: Of course, it had been given some thought, and Gray was among those under consideration.

Lucy: In other words, different people were also under consideration, huh?

Mira: Well, it felt like it was good timing to attribute it to Gray, but then some fans called us out on it.

Lucy: Still, it became a part of the story, so we gotta fix up those loose ends, right?

Mira: You're right... But I don't think this was all that inconsistent, except that maybe Gray didn't have much motivation to kill Frosch.



In the future that future Rogue came from, Gray's body may have been under an evil influence, right?

Mira: Either way, I'm glad that future never came true.

So smart phones have finally appeared in the FT world, huh?



To be more exact, it's a small-type communications lacrima.



Warren was working the whole year on it!

Lucy: And it's really convenient!

Mira: But it isn't like the cellphones where you guys live.

Lucy: First, it runs on magic power.

Mira: And the distance it can work on is pretty limited.

Lucy: Warren once said...



But I intend to make them so they can be used throughout Fiore...no, bigger! Throughout the whole continent!

Lucy: And he was pretty worked up when he said it.

Mira: Well, it's certainly possible. But I hear he really made a lot of money off it so far.



What?!

Mira: Rumor has it, he's made enough for even his grandchildren to live in luxury!

Lucy: I can't believe he'd return to the guild after being so successful...



Mhmm! And despite it all, when he got your letter, he chose the guild over that.



Thank you, Warren! Thank you!

Send to Hiro Mashima, Kodansha Comics
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FAIRY TAIL de ART GUILD

Everyone in their chibi form! I like this picture!



Saitama Prefecture, Gray

Chiba Prefecture, Yū Takayama



▲ This is rare! A picture of Mard Gear in his Etherious form!

Saitama Prefecture, Ryū Shimono



▲ The outfit's an original design! It's cute! Thanks!!



Saitama Prefecture, Sayaka Suzuki

They're going to include this scene in its entirety in a special DVD in Japan!



▲ Cool!! And really well done!! These two also came out great in the anime, too!

Ibaraki Prefecture, Hanse Shibata



▲ Look at all the characters!! Must have been a tough one to draw.



Nagano Prefecture, Sariko

By sending in letters or postcards, you give us permission to give your name, address, postal code, and any other information you include to the author as is. Please keep that in mind.

Hiroshima Prefecture, Taichi Kobayashi



▲ Ohh!! Thank you!! That love really comes through!!

Osaka, Yumika Asano



▲ Seira was both beautiful and scary during the Tartaros arc, huh? What impression did she leave on you all?

Saitama Prefecture, Saori Nomoto



▲ Christmas! And so cute! I think it's great that Lucy's the reindeer and not Happy!

Niigata Prefecture, Strawberry Daifuku



▲ Ohh!! An Erza postcard!! Erza looks really good in that get-up!

Tokyo, Hana



▲ These two are always great friends. And I'm sure they'll play a big part really soon!

Hiroshima Prefecture, Sabu



▲ An oddly adult-looking Natsu. This type is nice, too, every now and then, huh?

Tokyo, Be Alice



▲ I want her to show up again! I really like her character, too!

FAIRY TAIL 52

フェアリーテイル



SPRIGGAN 12

真島ヒロ HIROSHIMA



SPRIGGAN 12

FROM HIRO MASHIMA



I went to a signing in Okinawa. It was in September, but it was still so hot!

There were a lot of people who came, and it was great fun! Not to mention the fact that they served really delicious food.

The problem was that I was so busy that I was stuck in the hotel coming up with storyboards during my long-awaited trip!

Translation Notes:

Japanese is a tricky language for most Westerners, and translation is often more art than science. For your edification and reading pleasure, here are notes on some of the places where we could have gone in a different direction with our translation of the work, or where a Japanese cultural reference is used.

Page 41, Spriggan

The Emperor of the Albareth Empire is known as Emperor Spriggan. A spriggan is a mythical creature out of fairy lore from Cornwall in England, or, more particularly, the community of West Penwith. Spriggans are supposed to be grotesquely ugly creatures that guard treasures in old ruins and burial mounds. Of course, the emperor might have a good reason for calling himself that.

Page 82, "μ"

The Greek letter "μ" is pronounced "myu" in Japanese. It has many different meanings, any of which may (or may not) have something to do with Brandish's character. For example, in Greek numerals, it represents the number 40, it was drawn from the Egyptian hieroglyph for water, and it is the symbol for micrometer, which is a very tiny unit of length.

Page 136, Ajeel Raml

During the translation of the weekly chapters for online publication, the translator originally spelled Ajeel's name as Ajeel Rommul, noting the similarity between Ajeel Rommul, the Desert King and the WWII German general, Erwin Rommel, the Desert Fox. However, as Ajeel started performing magic in later chapters, and the names of his attacks included Arabic words, they realized that his name was, in fact, Raml, the Arabic word for "sand." We apologize for any confusion.



RAGNARÖK, THE FINAL BATTLE BEGINS!!

Next Time...

When Natsu and the Fairy Tail wizards learn the sad secret, they burn with the will to fight the Albareth Empire!!

We cannot afford to lose this!

Zeref is after Fairy Tail and its biggest secret—Fairy Heart! There lies the hidden secret of Mavis's crime!

I can take Zeref down!

It has begun, Natsu...

Let's show them the power of the guild!

E.N.D.

I got a secret plan for that right here!!!!

The air above Magnolia is riddled with enemy ships!! With zero chance of winning, what will be Fairy Tail's fate?!

I won't let you near my kids!!!

I have to get out there, too!

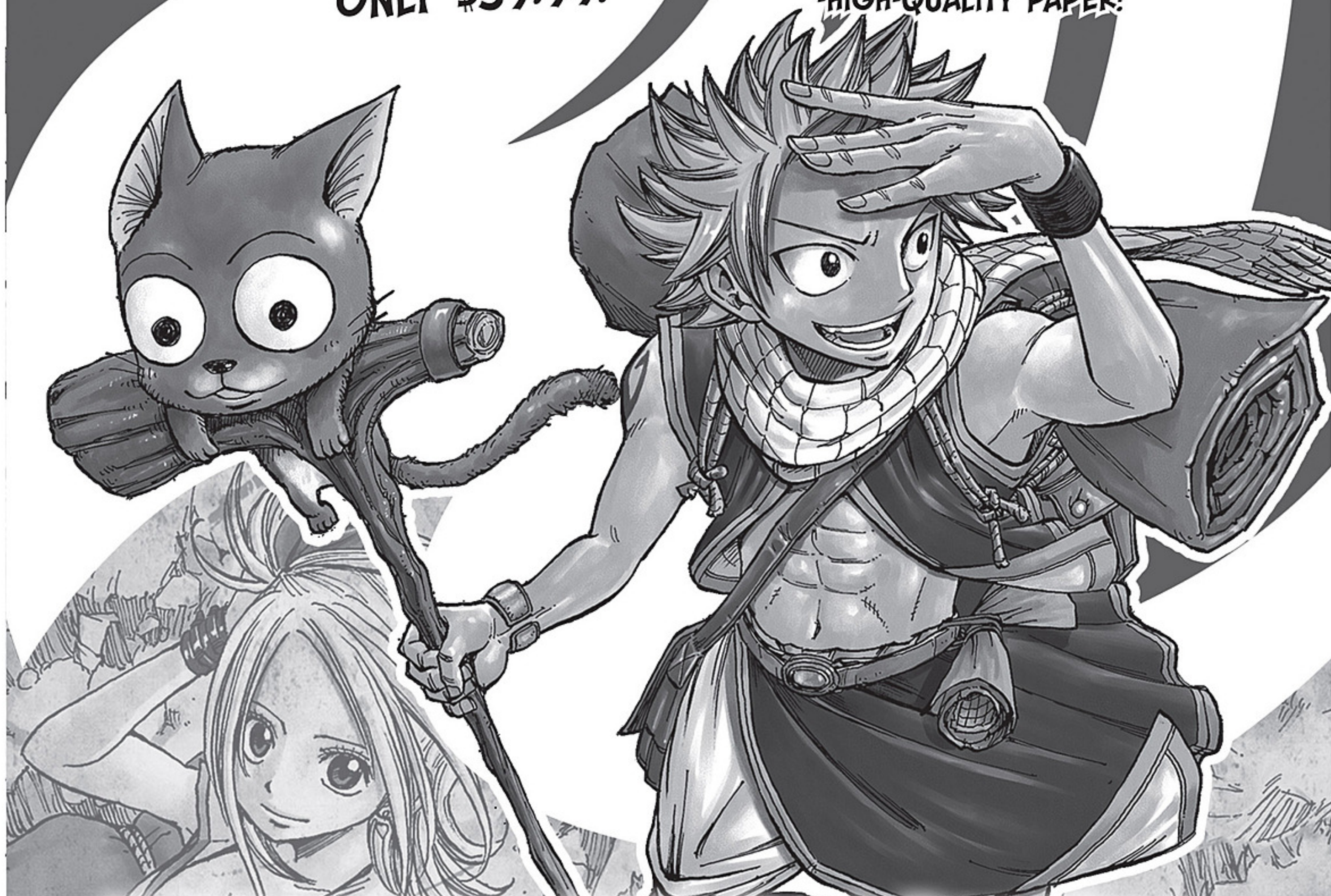
FAIRY TAIL 53

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FAIRY TAIL

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Fairy Tail volume 52

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